



City of Bloomington

Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NOTICE and REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

May 15, 2025, 6:00 PM
Hooker Meeting Room #245
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562>

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

Passcode: COBPT

or on Community Access Television Service (CATS): <https://catstv.net/government.php>.
Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:
2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright			
Nadia Cain			
Matt Caldie			
Kasie Chappell			
Adam Fudickar			
Shannon Gayk			
Adam Martinez			
Mitchell Owens			
David Parkhurst			

Rachael Johnson,
City Liaison

3. Approval of April 2025 minutes*

Yes

No

Abstain

Carrie Albright
Nadia Cain
Matt Caldie
Kasie Chappell
Adam Fudickar
Shannon Gayk
Adam Martinez
Mitchell Owens
David Parkhurst

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of Herald-Times article: Discovery of arsenic, benzene at Bloomington's Hopewell site requires cleanup, mitigation
- b. Review Annual Report Slides
 - i. To be presented at City Council meeting on June 4, 2025

6. Old Business

- a. Working group updates
 - ii. Light Pollution
 - iii. Biodiversity
 - 1. Bee City USA & Bee City Campus
 - 2. Habitat Connectivity Map
 - a. [Link](#)
 - iv. Water Quality
 - 1. HB 1037
 - a. [Link](#)
 - 2. Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants
 - a. [Link](#)
 - v. Special Projects
 - 1. IDEM Recycling Grant
 - a. [Link](#)

7. Staff Update

- a. City Pollinator Week Events
- b. Grants Announcements from Economic and Sustainable Development Department

8. Reports from:

- a. Tree Commission (TC)
- b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)
- c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)
- d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

9. Commissioner announcements

10. Upcoming Meeting

- a. June 26, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

11. Adjournment

** Item to be voted on*

The City is committed to providing equal access to information. However, despite our efforts, at times, portions of our board and commission packets are not accessible for some individuals. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact Melissa Hirtzel at hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.



City of Bloomington

Environmental Commission

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NOTICE and REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

April 17, 2025, 6:00 PM
Hooker Meeting Room #245
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562>

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

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1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:
2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain	X		
Matt Caldie	X		
Kasie Chappell	X		
Adam Fudickar	X		

Shannon Gayk	X	
Adam Martinez	X	
Mitchell Owens		X
David Parkhurst	X	
Rachael Johnson, City Liaison	X	
Fiona Kilgore, Graduate Fellow		X

3. Approval of March 2025 minutes*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain	X		
Matt Caldie	X		
Kasie Chappell	X		
Adam Fudickar	X		
Shannon Gayk	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens			
David Parkhurst	X		

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. New Business

a. None

6. Old Business

a. Working group updates

i. Light Pollution

No update.

ii. Water Quality

“Clean community” grant, potential for collaboration with Special Projects group. Focuses on non-point source pollution. Notice of intent due in June.

iii. Biodiversity

1. Bee City USA

Council-member Piedmont-Smith requested clarification, potentially wants a meeting with a commission member.

IU has officially been designated a Bee Campus. The Bee City questions mostly revolve around the application / renewal fees and what the funds are used for.

The organization's website is at:
beecityusa.org

2. Habitat Connectivity Map

- a. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/70c3c09af677437aad0be4b9d5ef53e2/page/Map>

The data on the site is the same as the previous map. Carrie recommended adding easily digestible information about the map, especially in the FAQ and Legend. Shannon mentioned that the process for adding your own property wasn't clear.

Adam F. asked about any "Potential Corridor Links" on city property.

Kasie suggested that the page open on the Legend tab to make the map more understandable.

Matt said that the Potential Corridor Links aren't very useful and recommends removing them. He also mentioned adding "orange diamonds" (user reported greenspace) on city land, such as parks.

Kasie asked about differentiating between user submissions and existing greenspace like parks.

iv. Special Projects

Carrie talked briefly about the aforementioned water quality grant. The group is planning to meet on May 8 (see city calendar).

b. Eco-Heroes Planning

Commissioners signed cards that will be handed out to participants.

The event will be indoors due to weather concerns.

The commission will bring tote bags for the public to decorate and give away extra donations.
Most winners will be in attendance at the Earth Day celebration.
The EC will setup at the tables labeled 22.
Shannon told us about an event where a group walks around local “wastelands”. The first one is April 19th at 10:30 weather depending.

c. Handbook Update*

Rachel showed the document with updated language around using a standardized template and the history of the EC.

Adam F moved to adopt the new language. All present voted Yes.

7. Staff Update

a. Confirm June Meeting Date

The 3rd Thursday of June is Juneteenth which is a city holiday.
Rachel asked about moving it to the 4th Thursday, June 26th.

8. Reports from:

a. Tree Commission (TC)

No update.

b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)

Dave gave a recap of the meeting. An insect survey was conducted at Lake Griffy.

c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)

No update.

d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)

Matt gave a recap.

e. Monroe County - Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

Rachel gave a recap.

9. Commissioner announcements

Nadia is going to Chicago to promote composting at Wrigley Field.

10. Social Media
 - a. May Posts

Adam M. will send a photo and information about a native bird, why they are important, and how to attract them.
Rachel reached out about the Parks Department sharing posts from the Environmental Commission.
11. Upcoming Meeting
 - a. May 15, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS
12. Adjournment: 7:16 PM

** Item to be voted on*

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The Bloomington Environmental Commission (EC) wishes to acknowledge and honor the indigenous communities native to this region, and recognize that the City of Bloomington, Indiana was built on indigenous homelands and resources.

The Herald-Times

LOCAL

Discovery of arsenic, benzene at Bloomington's Hopewell site requires cleanup, mitigation

An environmental consultant said some of the contamination is naturally occurring while the petroleum-related contaminants stem from a former gas station



Boris Ladwig

The Herald-Times

May 7, 2025, 4:46 a.m. ET

Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

Contamination at Bloomington's Hopewell site includes arsenic, benzene, and other petroleum-related contaminants.

The contamination is believed to be from a former gas station and naturally occurring arsenic.

Remediation plans include soil removal and vapor mitigation systems for buildings.

Environmental [testing](#) at Bloomington's planned [Hopewell site](#) on West Second Street has revealed the presence of arsenic, benzene and other petroleum-related [contaminants](#).

An environmental consultant said some of the contamination is naturally occurring while the petroleum-related contaminants stem from a former gas station that operated on the site decades ago.

The consultant and a city official said they expect the contaminated soil to be removed, with state approval, and structures that will be built in the neighborhood, which is expected to eventually house about 750 people, will be shielded from the impact of any remaining harmful substances.

How much the cleanup will cost is, as of yet, unclear.

Mitigation will address contamination at Hopewell

Barry Sneed, public information officer for the [Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#) said via email, “Sampling results are consistent with what IDEM would expect for sites of this size with a history of former gas stations and underground storage tanks.

“With proper institutional controls in place, public contact with residual contamination is eliminated, thereby allowing the possibility of safe, productive reuse of the properties.

[Access Bloomington news anywhere with the Herald-Times app](#)

Sneed also said, “Specific measures for these sites will vary based on intended use(s) for the area and will be determined after more contaminated soil is removed and additional samples are taken.”

Once the mitigation has been completed, any harmful substance is “not going to be at a problematic level,” said Sara Hamidovic, an environmental engineer and CEO at Bloomington-based [VET Environmental Engineering](#), which has been conducting the tests.

Anna Killion-Hanson, director of the city’s Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, said the city is taking the appropriate steps to protect public health.

Redevelopment: [Bloomington unveils Hopewell Commons park adjacent to BLine trail](#)

Hamidovic said working with city officials has been “refreshing” as they have indicated they want to do the right thing — unlike some of her other clients, who are primarily interested in taking the steps that cost the least amount of money.

The city bought the former hospital site from IU Health for \$6.5 million when the health system moved into a new facility on the city's east side. The city since has spent millions more to upgrade infrastructure to prepare the site for redevelopment, which is to include anything from single-family homes to apartment complexes. The city last month opened Hopewell Commons, a public park on the property that cost about \$8 million.

Benzene associated with former gas station

Hamidovic said her company's work, which included reviewing tens of thousands of pages of documents, determined that a gas station formerly operated near the southwest corner of the intersection of West Second and South Rogers streets, east of the remaining parking garage.

The station preceded federal environmental regulations, such as the Clean Air Act of 1970, which means the station's underground tank or tanks were not protected against leakage. Hamidovic said tanks of that era often were exposed to water, which meant they rusted and leaked.

Tests have revealed the presence of petroleum-related byproducts, such as benzene, which can cause cancer.

"The solution is we need to get rid of it," Hamidovic said.

While the extent of the contamination is not yet known exactly, she said she believes the area of contamination to be relatively small, likely measuring 30 by 80 feet, and between 4 and 7 feet below the surface.

"We believe it has not left the property in soil and groundwater," she said.

The city has not selected a strategy to eliminate the contamination, Hamidovic said, but it has a few options.

Typically, remediation involves removal of the soil, which would mean getting an excavator, lining up dump trucks and hauling the contaminated soil elsewhere, she

said. Testing could be conducted during the removal operation to make sure no contaminated soil remains. The clean soil on top would be used to backfill the area, with additional soil being brought in from elsewhere.

However, removal alone likely won't be enough because benzene and other petroleum products are volatile, meaning people can be exposed in multiple ways, including ingestion but also inhalation.

Concerns about dangerous vapors would remain after soil removal, Hamidovic said, which means the city and state likely would require a vapor mitigation system. For an apartment complex, that would involve capturing vapors under the foundation and venting them through the building's roof, much like a large-scale radon mitigation system.

Hamidovic emphasized that the vapor mitigation system would provide an additional line of protection. And as the city will be requiring radon mitigation anyway, the additional costs likely would be low.

Arsenic thought to be naturally occurring

Hamidovic said testing also has revealed the presence of arsenic throughout, but she believes it is naturally occurring, as it's not unusual to find the substance in the ground in Bloomington and lots of southern Indiana.

Arsenic can cause health problems, including cancer, and IDEM has set exposure limits for the element, including one for industrial sites, where people might be exposed during work, and residential sites, where people might be exposed for longer periods.

Hamidovic said in many southern Indiana areas, the naturally occurring level of arsenic exceeds the industrial standard, but arsenic is not volatile, which makes mitigation less complicated than with benzene.

“The best way to prevent exposure to arsenic is to put some form of barrier between the people and the contamination,” she said.

That could involve building a parking lot over areas with higher arsenic concentrations, with the asphalt functioning as an engineered barrier between arsenic and people. For housing units, the foundations would serve as barriers.

Sneed said, “Controls proposed for the sites include capping areas with impacted soil, restricting groundwater use and requiring vapor investigation and/or mitigation for on-site buildings or newly constructed buildings, where necessary. These same controls have been implemented successfully nationwide at other cleanup sites.”

Boris Ladwig can be reached at bladwig@heraldt.com.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



**CARRIE ALBRIGHT,
CHAIR**



**MATT CALDIE,
VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER**



**ADAM MARTINEZ,
SECRETARY**



DAVID PARKHURST



MITCHELL OWENS

SHANNON GAYK



NADIA CAIN



KASIE CHAPPELL



ADAM FUDICKAR



**RACHAEL JOHNSON,
CITY LIAISON**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MISSION



The mission of the Environmental Commission (EC) is to promote the stewardship and preservation of the City's environment and natural resources by seeking out and responding to emerging issues, addressing them with sound long-term policy recommendations, and increasing local environmental awareness and engagement.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2024 PRIORITIES

- **Biodiversity Working Group**
 - Promote Habitat Connectivity Plan at local events & gatherings
 - Extend focus to pollinators and native plants
 - Create, update, and collect additional educational materials
- **Outreach Programs and Activities**
 - Continue existing efforts (Eco-Heroes, BugFest, Weed Wrangle, etc.)
 - Engage with other organizations in the City, community, and the university in overlapping interests
 - Support and drive momentum for the City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan
 - Increase presence in local media (newspaper, radio, IU campus) when sharing reports, activities and events, and locally relevant information

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2024 PRIORITIES

- Biodiversity Working Group
 - Continue to promote Habitat Connectivity Plan while taking steps to improve its functionality and user experience
 - Extend focus to pollinators and native plants
 - Create, update, and collect additional educational materials

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/habitat-connectivity>

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
 - BugFest
 - Grandview STEM Night
 - Eco-Heroes



2024 ECO-HEROES ART CONTEST

- 30 submissions
- 20 sponsors
- Art, videos, songs, essays, and poems

City of Bloomington
**ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION**

*Presents the
12th Annual*

Eco-Heroes
Art Contest!

2024 Theme



<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/eco-heroes-contest>

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
 - Engage with other organizations in the City, community, and the university in overlapping interests
 - Bee City launched
 - Support for Haskell Smith
 - Local organization supporting sustainable practices in Bloomington
 - ?

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
 - Support and drive momentum for the City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
 - Local interviews:
 - WFHB Activate!
 - WFHB Public Service Announcement
 - Interview with The 812 Podcast
 - In the news?
 - On IU campus?

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

WHAT IS GOING WELL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION?

- ★ Communication and collaboration across partners
- ★ Enthusiasm for long-term projects and initiatives
- ★ Positive response from the community
- ★

WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES FOR 2025?

- ★ Complex and inefficient changes to communication
- ★ General engagement during challenging times
- ★ Vacancies
- ★

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

LONG-TERM PRIORITIES (3-5 YRS)

- **Internal structure and communication**
 - Revisit active working groups, establish social media strategy, improve Commissioner onboarding process
- **Supporting activities and communications**
 - Establish workshop or training by or for EC members
 - Publish Water Quality report for City of Bloomington
 - Conduct or support stream inventory to inform riparian buffer UDO standards
 - Pursue city certifications that promote commitment to Bloomington's environmental quality

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2025 GOALS

- Launch revised onboarding process for new commission members (Admin)
- Establishing water quality contacts for data and priority setting (Water Quality)
- Continue progress on UDO riparian buffer measurement (Water Quality)
- Generate social media strategy and seasonal content ideas (Admin)
- Establishing an avenue for the public to bring environmental concerns to the EC's attention (Admin)
- Gathering information on light pollution in the city and ways to positively impact (Light Pollution)
- Collaborate on Bee City/Campus Certification (Biodiversity)
- Collaborating with the Clean Team to support IDEM clean community programming (Water Quality)
- Pursue projects to work on in collaboration with the Planning Department (ECPC)
- Updating the EC website with a wide range of environment-related resources (Admin)
- Hosting a 2025 Eco-Heroes contest (Eco-Heroes)

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Example 1
 - Description
- Example 2
 - Description

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2023 PRIORITIES

- **Promote Habitat Connectivity Plan**
 - Greater engagement with Bloomington community members
 - Improved usability of the interactive tool
- **Revamp Outreach Programs and Activities**
 - Annual Eco-Heroes Art Contest
 - Tabling at local events
- **Create or Sponsor a Volunteer Event for the Public***
- **Provide recommendations and reporting on environmental quality**
 - Air Quality working group
 - Advise on UDO and Plan Commission considerations

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2023 PRIORITIES

Revamp Outreach Programs & Activities

- Annual Eco-Heroes Art Contest
- Tabling at local events



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ECO-HEROES



2023

2024



- 30 submissions
- 20 sponsors
- Art, videos, songs, essays, and poems



City of Bloomington
**ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION**

*Presents the
12th Annual*

Eco-Heroes
Art Contest!



<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/eco-heroes-contest>

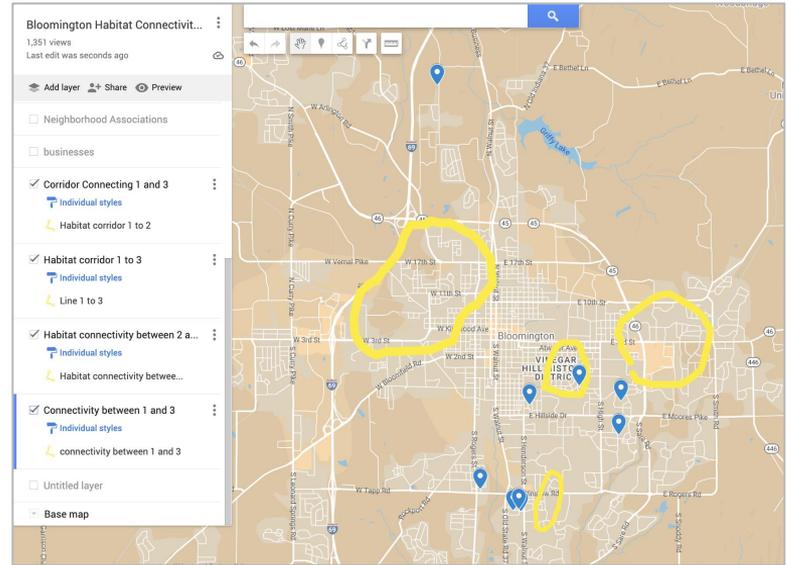
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2023 PRIORITIES

Promote the Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan

- Greater engagement with community members
- Improved usability of the interactive tool

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/habitat-connectivity>



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2023 PRIORITIES

Provide recommendations and reporting on environmental quality

- Advise on UDO, Plan Commission considerations
- Support environmental priorities through the City
- 2023 Air Quality Report

Excerpt from 2023 Air Quality Report:

Daily ground-level ozone AQI values measured in 2022 for Bloomington, via the Helmsburg site, also predominately fall under the AQI category of Good, meaning 50 or below. Around 20 days out of the year were recorded in the Moderate category, and once again a handful of days feature insufficient data. The average O₃ AQI value for Bloomington in 2022 was roughly 34, which again appears to be consistent with the average data value from 2015-2019.

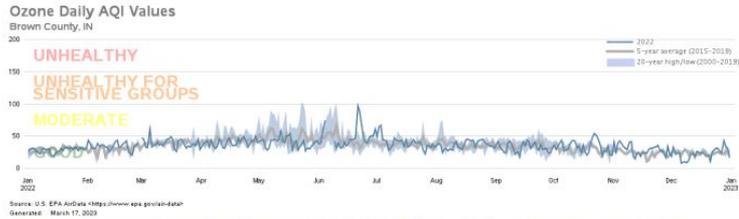


Figure 3. Ozone Daily AQI values reported in AirNow for Bloomington, Indiana from January 2022 until January 2023.

Comparisons and the Unknown

The PM_{2.5} air quality data for Bloomington in 2022 is an improvement compared to long-term historical data, which is consistent with much of the country and indicative of the progress that has been made since the air quality legislation of the 1960s and 1970s. However, the short-term averages seem to show very little progress in the last decade. The AQI values provided by the EPA for 2022 are virtually identical to the averages from 2015 through 2020. The tile plot below reflects PM_{2.5} data in micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Green represents less than or equal to 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, yellow represents 12.1-35.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and orange through purple are not shown due to Bloomington's numbers not reaching sustained unhealthy levels of 35.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and beyond.

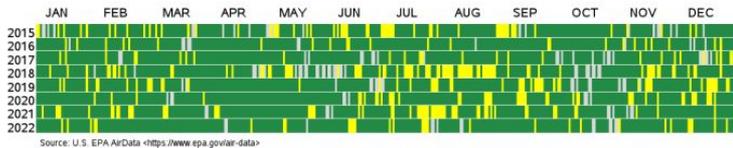


Figure 4. Tile plot for the years 2015-2022 showing the occurrences of PM_{2.5} concentration values less than 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (green) and 12.1-35.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (yellow). Gray tiles correspond to no data.

The most recent Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan (2022) released by IDEM also reports PM_{2.5} site values gradually improving, and within the national standards.⁹ Data in the report are from 2019-2021,

Summarized local findings

- The average PM_{2.5} AQI value for Bloomington in 2022 came in just a little over 30. The average O₃ AQI value roughly approximately 34 (<50 is “Good”). Both averages are consistent with the average data value from 2015-2019.

Recommendations to reduce climate change impact and improve air quality in Bloomington:

- Accelerate our efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through increased adoption of renewable energy sources like solar energy, along with efforts to decarbonize transportation
- Proposing shifts in data reporting to include a reference quality ozone monitor within the city limits, as well as a network of PM_{2.5} air sensors throughout Bloomington

Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants

[Home](#) [Nonpoint Source \(/idem/nps\)](#) > [Funding \(/idem/nps/funding\)](#) > Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants

The Nonpoint Source (NPS) Section in the Office of Water Quality manages two federal pass-through grant programs aimed at improving water quality in the state: Section 319(h) and Section 205(j), each named after the portion of the Clean Water Act that authorizes the program.

The Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) provides funding for various types of projects that work to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. Funds may be used to conduct assessments, develop and implement TMDLs and watershed management plans, provide technical assistance, demonstrate new technology and provide education and outreach. Organizations eligible for funding include nonprofit organizations, universities, and local, State or Federal government agencies. A 40 percent (non-federal) in-kind or cash match of the total project cost must be provided.

Projects are administered through grant agreements that spell out the tasks, schedule, and budget for the project. Projects are normally two to three years long and work to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality in the watershed primarily through:

- Education and outreach designed to bring about behavioral changes and best management practice (BMP) implementation that leads to reduced nonpoint source pollution;
- The development of watershed management plans that meet U.S. EPA's required nine elements; and,
- The implementation of watershed management plans through a cost-share program focusing on BMP implementation that addresses water quality concerns.

IDEM project managers work closely with the project sponsors to help ensure that the project runs smoothly, and the tasks of the grant agreement are fulfilled. Site visits are conducted at least quarterly to touch base on the project, provide guidance and technical assistance as needed, and to work with the grantee on any issues that arise to ensure a successful project closeout.

- [Solicitation Announcement \[PDF\] \(/idem/nps/files/funding_319_solicitation_announcement.pdf\)](#)
- [Section 319\(h\) Grant Application Package \(/idem/nps/progress-evaluation/319205j-grant-application-instructions\)](#)
- [Nonpoint Source Grants Compendium \(/idem/nps/resources/nonpoint-source-grants-compendium\)](#)
- [Summary of Current 319\(h\) Grant Projects \(/idem/nps/funding/current-section-319205j-projects/summary-of-current-319h-grant-projects\)](#)
- [Indiana Nonpoint Source Management Plan \(/idem/nps/resources/indiana-nonpoint-source-management-plan\)](#)
- [National Information on the Section 319\(h\) Grant Program \(http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm\)](#)

For more information about Section 319 funding, [contact IDEM \(/idem/nps/contact\)](#).

I Want To

- [Contact IDEM inspectors and staff.\(/idem/idem-regional-staff-and-inspectors\)](#)
- [Find out if my stream is healthy.\(/idem/nps/online-e303d-tool\)](#)
- [Learn about how I can improve water quality. \(/idem/nps/what-is-nonpoint-source-pollution/what-you-can-do-to-reduce-or-stop-nonpoint-source-pollution\)](#)
- [Report a water quality problem.\(/idem/contact/file-a-complaint\)](#)
- [Read a success story.\(/idem/nps/what-is-nonpoint-source-pollution/make-a-real-difference\)](#)
- [Learn more about blue-green algae.\(/idem/algae\)](#)
- [Learn about wetlands.\(/idem/wetlands\)](#)
- [Learn about household hazardous waste.\(/idem/health/household-hazardous-wastes\)](#)
- [Learn about composting and how to do it.\(/idem/health/greening-our-backyards/composting\)](#)

Online Services

- [Acronyms List\(/idem/about/idem-acronyms\)](#)
- [IDEM Forms\(/idem/forms\)](#)
- [Impaired Waters \(e303d\)\(/idem/nps/eservices/impaired-waters-e303d-tutorial\)](#)
- [Safe Drinking Water Information Search\(https://myweb.in.gov/IDEM/DWW/\)](https://myweb.in.gov/IDEM/DWW/)
- [Virtual File Cabinet\(/idem/legal/public-records/virtual-file-cabinet\)](#)
- [Volunteer Mitigation Sites\(/idem/wetlands/mitigation-volunteer\)](#)
- [More IN.gov Online Services\(http://www.in.gov/services.htm\)](http://www.in.gov/services.htm)
- [IN.gov Subscriber Center\(http://www.in.gov/subscriber_center.htm\)](http://www.in.gov/subscriber_center.htm)

Top FAQs

- [Do I need to remove asbestos? \(https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389903-Do-I-need-to-remove-asbestos\)](https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389903-Do-I-need-to-remove-asbestos?)

- [Who can I contact with questions \(https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389166-Who-can-I-about-asbestos-regulations?_contact-with-questions-about-asbestos-regulations\)](https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389166-Who-can-I-about-asbestos-regulations?_contact-with-questions-about-asbestos-regulations)
 - [How can I find a licensed asbestos contractor or building inspector? \(_I-find-a-licensed-asbestos-contractor-or-building-inspector\)](https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389146-How-can-contractor-or-building-inspector?_I-find-a-licensed-asbestos-contractor-or-building-inspector)
 - [Do I need an asbestos license? \(_asbestos-license\)](https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389126-Do-I-need-an-asbestos-license?_asbestos-license)
 - [Where can I find the notification form that is required for the demolition/renovation of a facility? \(_can-I-find-the-notification-form-that-is-required-for-the-demolition-renovation-of-a-facility\)](https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360000389863-Where-that-is-required-for-the-demolition/renovation-of-a-facility?_can-I-find-the-notification-form-that-is-required-for-the-demolition-renovation-of-a-facility)
 - [Where can I recycle?\(https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/115005043587-Where-can-I-recycle\)](https://faqs.in.gov/hc/en-us/articles/115005043587-Where-can-I-recycle?)
- [More FAQs \(https://ingov.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/115001504468-Environmental-Management-Department-of\)](https://ingov.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/115001504468-Environmental-Management-Department-of)

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[Policies \(https://www.in.gov/core/policies.html\)](https://www.in.gov/core/policies.html)

[Sitemap \(https://www.in.gov/core/sitemap.html\)](https://www.in.gov/core/sitemap.html)

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May 7, 2025

Recycling Grants from \$50K to \$500K Available

Applications Due June 18, 2025

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) announced the availability of grant funding for recycling projects from the Recycling Market Development Program. Eligible candidates may seek a grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Proposals are being accepted **now through June 18, 2025**.

Who can apply? Public and private businesses, local government, solid waste management districts, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations located and doing business in Indiana are eligible to submit proposals for funding.

Proposals must show a need, an increase in recyclable material collection or utilization, a reduction in municipal solid waste shipped for final disposal, or improved partnerships with communities, including economic impacts and increased public awareness of recycling opportunities through tangible outreach and education efforts.

Projects should demonstrate sustainability and an understanding of the changing economy for recyclers and look at where monies can be used most effectively to increase statewide recycling.

Final funding determinations will be made this fall. To apply, visit idem.IN.gov/recycle/recycling-market-development-program. For additional information, please contact 800-988-7901 or RMDPGrants@idem.IN.gov.

About the Recycling Market Development Program

The Recycling Market Development Program operates under the Recycling Market Development Board as established by [IC 4-23-5.5](#). The grant money for the program comes from the Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund, an account generated by a per-ton fee on solid waste disposed at Indiana landfills. The fund supports source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting to prevent solid waste from permanent disposal.

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Pollinator Week: The Urban Greenspace team is excited to collaborate with local partners to bring you Pollinator Week in June!

- Pollinator Planting Workshop: Are you interested in adding or improving pollinator habitat on your own property? Join Camille Verendia of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for this workshop on June 14, from 9 - 11 a.m. at Rogers Family Park! During this 2-hour workshop, participants will attend four sessions to learn how to restore pollinator habitat. Topics include site preparation, species selections, and learning to identify plants and pollinators. This workshop is offered as a no-charge event with support from the Urban Greenspace Team and biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A restoration guide will be provided for all participants - register here: <https://bloomington.in.gov/recreation/programs/12648>!
- [Pollinator Week](#) Downtown Branch of the Monroe County Public Library!
- [Native Landscaping](#), Monday June 16, 6-7pm. Join us to learn about native Indiana plants that do well in gardens and native landscaping that support native pollinators throughout the year. Register here: https://calendar.mcpl.info/events?v=grid&term=pollinator&Search=&keys=&query=&scope=programs&_gl=1*1mbk75n*_ga*Mzk4MjA3Mi4xNzM5MjM4Nzcx*_ga_ZJYE57CEZ6*czE3NDY2NTc4NTUkbzEzJGcxJHQxNzQ2NjU3ODY1JGowJGwwJGgw&d=2025-06-01&r=range
- [Trees as Pollinators](#), Tuesday June 17, 6-7pm. Join us and local tree expert Ray Major to learn how trees help pollinators, and how you can grow them from seeds. Register here: https://calendar.mcpl.info/events?v=grid&term=pollinator&Search=&keys=&query=&scope=programs&_gl=1*1mbk75n*_ga*Mzk4MjA3Mi4xNzM5MjM4Nzcx*_ga_ZJYE57CEZ6*czE3NDY2NTc4NTUkbzEzJGcxJHQxNzQ2NjU3ODY1JGowJGwwJGgw&d=2025-06-01&r=range
- Pollinator Garden Maintenance Day: Will be held at Park Ridge East Park on June 21, from 8 - 10 a.m. Join us in providing native habitat for pollinators! Our City Parks are superb wildlife habitats providing a haven for wildlife. Register here: https://volunteer.bloomington.in.gov/acts/console.php?console_id=0286&console_type=event&cat_id=16&ht=1

- Pollinator Week at the Lilly Library: Join us for a celebration of nature on June 25 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Lilly Library on the IU campus! Visitors can peruse a pop-up exhibition of historical materials related to the beauty and value of the natural world. Try your hand at solving some flora and fauna-themed puzzles from the Jerry Slocum Mechanical Puzzle Collection and learn how to make your own nature diary. This event is hosted by Erin Chiparo and the Lilly Library team!

Economic and Sustainable Development Department Grants

<https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/grants>

- Solar, Energy Efficiency, and Lighting (SEEL) Grant Program

The 2025 SEEL program provides grant funding and technical assistance for nonprofits, community organizations, and small businesses to improve building efficiency and install solar panels or battery storage. This program progresses the City of Bloomington's goals to increase renewable energy sources, decrease CO2 emissions from fossil fuel consumption, and support local organizations across the community.

Eligible projects for funding under the 2025 SEEL program include three project types: energy efficiency, solar and/or battery. Solar and battery grants provide \$25,000 to sponsor a solar photovoltaic (PV) panel system installation, \$20,000 to sponsor a battery energy storage system (for nonprofits only), or a combined \$45,000 solar and battery installation (for nonprofits only). Solar and battery installations are performed by the City's SEEL program partner, Solar Energy Solutions. Energy efficiency grants provide \$10,000 to reimburse upgrades that reduce energy demand, such as energy efficient HVAC equipment or building weatherization. An approved application is required before beginning any project.

[Solar and Battery Projects](#): Applications for solar and/or battery projects will be accepted on a rolling basis until all funding for the 2025 program year has been allocated.

[Energy Efficiency Projects](#): Applications for energy efficiency projects will be accepted on a rolling basis until all funding for the 2025 program year has been allocated.

UPDATE: Due to a high volume of applicants for energy efficiency grants, any new energy efficiency applications will be placed on hold until it is determined if the funding is completely allocated. Solar and battery grants are still available.

- Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program

The Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program provides rebates to help Bloomington homeowners complete energy efficiency upgrades, install renewable energy sources, reduce their utility bills, and increase the environmental sustainability of their houses. This program advances the City of Bloomington's goals to improve environmental and economic equity in

Bloomington and to reduce the community-wide consumption of fossil fuel energy sources.