

Welcome to the challenge of helping our environment in the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly (IGA). Here are several of the issues on which bills (both positive and negative) are likely to be introduced, with undoubtedly more to come.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change

A majority of Hoosiers (80%) believe climate change is real and 75% support initiatives to address the effects, according to a survey by the IU Environmental Resilience Institute. Help turn these attitudes into legislative action in the upcoming IGA.

> Ask your state senator to support Sen. Ron Alting's resolution addressing climate change and economic development, and his bill to establish a Climate and Environmental Justice Task Force to develop a statewide climate action plan. These bills implement the remarkable work of the statewide high school group Confront the Climate Crisis (confronttheclimaticrisis.com).

> Stay alert to oppose the phasing out of net metering for rooftop solar, which is otherwise going to be discontinued by the middle of 2022.

> Stay alert to support a carbon offsets bill, which would help landowners sell carbon credits to businesses wanting to offset their CO2 emissions.

> Stay alert to oppose a possible provision of a carbon capture pilot program that would prevent Wabash Valley Resources, LLC in Terre Haute from being sued if its carbon sequestration process results in local environmental damage.

Wetlands, Water Systems, and Open Spaces

> Ask your state representative and state senator to preserve wetlands and other ecosystems by using a portion of the budget surplus for land, water, and wildlife conservation.

> Ask your state representative to co-sponsor Rep. Pat Boy's wetlands bill, which will create a new tax incentive for wetland preservation.

> Stay alert to oppose bills that would decrease state authority over construction in floodways.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

> Stay alert to support CAFO bills that address environmental protection concerns.

Coal Ash and Lead

> Ask your elected state representatives and senators to co-sponsor Rep. Pat Boy and Sen. Rodney Pol's coal ash bills. These bills fill in prior coal ash legislation gaps, thus ensuring complete clean closures of all the leaking toxic coal ash pits in Indiana.

> Stay alert to support a bill reducing exposure to lead in childcare facilities.

Thank you for your interest in taking action in support of Indiana's environment.

Your LWVIN Natural Resources Co-chairs,

Kristina Lindborg (Bloomington-Monroe Cty), Liz Solberg (Greater Lafayette), Cheryl Chapman (La Porte Cty), Lisa Harris (South Bend)

WANT TO RECEIVE ACTION ALERTS, SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP UP ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION? Please contact us at kristina.lindborg@gmail.com. Also let us know if you have ideas to share and would like to get more involved with our work. We would love to have your help in protecting Indiana's natural resources and addressing climate change.