

Bulletin

Issue 1 • February 2019

for Educators

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) mission is to protect the environment and human health. IDEM ensures Indiana's land is safe to live on, air is safe to breathe, and water is safe to drink. IDEM's environmental educator is a resource for you!

Featured Program

Indiana Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence 2018 Award Winner for Energy/Renewable Resources: Michigan City Area Schools

In 1994, IDEM developed the Indiana Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. In 2018, Michigan City Area Schools won the award in the Energy/Renewable Resources category. To reduce energy costs, seven Michigan City Area Schools installed ground-mounted solar arrays and LED lighting. The solar and LED project is the largest of any school district in Indiana or the Midwest to date. The upgrades offset approximately 52 percent of combined electricity usage at these locations, which will result in an expected savings of \$23 million over the next 30 years.

The Indiana Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence recognize Hoosiers who conserve resources and protect our environment. Individuals, schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, universities, and government agencies can submit a project. If you have completed a project in one of the following categories, submit your application this spring:

Award Categories:

- Energy/Renewable Resources
- Greening the Government
- Land Use/Conservation
- Environmental Education and Outreach
- Pollution Prevention
- Five Year Continuous Improvement
- Recycling/Reuse



Solar arrays at Neimann elementary school.

A webinar is posted online explaining the application process, and application submissions are being accepted until April 1, at 5 p.m. For webinar and application information, visit: <https://www.in.gov/idem/partnerships/2457.htm>

In This Issue:

Indiana Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence: Michigan City Area Schools

Topics to Share: Interactive Water Cycle

Classroom Presentations

Craft Corner: Bee Hotel

Resources: Classroom Posters

Upcoming Events You Can Find Us At:

Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc.
February 18 - 19, 2019

Earth Day Indiana Festival
April 20, 2019

JCC Earth Day Community Celebration
April 28, 2019

Indiana State Fair
August 2 - 18, 2019

Topics to Share



Interactive Water Cycle

The water cycle describes the existence and movement of water on, in, and above the ground. A new, interactive website developed by the U.S. Geological Survey, along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, shows how water moves through the Earth's water cycle. There are three levels available for students: beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids.html>

Website developed by – The U.S. Geological Survey and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Classroom Presentations

IDEM offers classroom presentations and resources throughout the year. Many schools take advantage of the Earth Day presentations, but IDEM offers hands-on experiences and presentations for Pre-K to High School students and classrooms.

Presentation Topics:

Land Quality — How Long Does Your Trash Last; Edible Landfill

Air Quality — Indiana's Environment and You

Water Quality — Watersheds; Nonpoint and Point Source Pollution; Who Dirtied the Water; and Water Cycle

Recycling and Composting — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Your Trash; Wonderful World of Worms

For program descriptions, visit: www.idem.IN.gov/iee/
To request a presentation, contact education@idem.in.gov.



Craft Corner



Bee Hotel

Bee hotels are man-made nests made for solitary bees. While these types of bees don't make honey, they are vital pollinators. A pollinator is an animal that transfers pollen from one flower to another, resulting in both flowers producing seeds. Bees are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat.

Schools can help local wildlife by building their own bee hotels, which are a collection of pre-made holes and tunnels to save the bees' time and energy. These solitary bees are not aggressive and are unlikely to sting. In the cavities, female bees create an individual cell for her larvae. Not only can schools provide a habitat for the bees, students will get to see new generations of bees emerge each year.

There are many bee hotel guides online; check out [Michigan State University's comprehensive guide](#) to get started.

Resources

IDEM has colorful posters for the classroom. These free educational tools are available to all educators. To receive a poster(s) for your classroom contact: education@idem.in.gov.

Methods of Wastewater Treatment:

www.in.gov/idem/files/publication_wastewater_treatment_poster.pdf

Solid Waste Landfills: How They Work

www.in.gov/idem/files/publication_sw_landfills_poster.pdf

Wanted for Recycling:

www.in.gov/idem/iee/files/recycle_guys_poster_wanted.pdf



Contact Information:

Jennifer Helrigel

Environmental Education
and Outreach Coordinator
Office of Program Support

education@idem.in.gov



Indiana Department of
Environmental Management