

# Bulletin

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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

### Super Recyclers — Worms



Did you know that worms are Super Recyclers? If you want to learn more, join us for a fun, hands-on virtual presentation featuring our friends, the earthworm! Students will learn the features of an earthworm, what to feed them, how they turn food waste into compost and how compost can be used. Teachers will need to provide earth worms for your classroom and IDEM presenters will walk your students through science-based knowledge, comparison, analysis, and observation skills using their worms. Students will have an opportunity to study their own earthworm and see and feel the physical characteristics and features of an earthworm. They will learn all about how these small "Super Recyclers" make have a huge impact in our environment. For program descriptions, visit: [idem.IN.gov/iee/](http://idem.IN.gov/iee/). To request a presentation, contact [education@idem.in.gov](mailto:education@idem.in.gov).

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### Upcoming Events You Can Find Us At:

**Earth Day Indiana Festival**  
Garfield Park  
June 4, 2022

**Earth's Superhero's Camp**  
STEM Connection  
June 22,29 and July 27

## Topics to Share

### Project Learning Tree

[Project Learning Tree \(PLT\)](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/programs/education/project-learning-tree/) is an environmental education program designed for formal and informal educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT activities are ready-made, hands-on, and engage children in learning about the environment through the lens of trees and forests. Lessons can be integrated into existing curriculum and allows students to develop skills in creative problem solving and critical thinking. To obtain PLT materials, you must attend a PLT workshop where the program is introduced, activities conducted, and many teaching resources are provided.

Here is the link used above: [www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/programs/education/project-learning-tree/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/programs/education/project-learning-tree/)



## Classroom Presentations

### Looking for an in-person or virtual presentation for your class?



IDEM offers classroom presentations and resources throughout the year. Many schools take advantage of the Earth Day presentations, but IDEM offers presentations and hands-on experiences 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; Non-point 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/](http://www.idem.IN.gov/iee/)

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## Craft Corner



### Wildflower Seed Bombs

A seed bomb, or seed ball, is a ball of seeds mixed with something compostable which can be shaped into a ball. For these instructions we will chose to use paper, but seed bombs can also be made with clay and soil. The seeds are encased in the compostable paper or clay and can be thrown into the soil. As the rain falls, the paper composts away, the seeds germinate and grow wherever the bomb is thrown.

#### Instructions:

1. Begin by preparing the paper (construction paper will work best). Rip the paper into smaller pieces and place the pieces in a bowl.
2. Add water to the bowl of paper. You will need to soak the paper pieces for at least 20 minutes.
3. Once the paper is thoroughly soaked, it is time to add it to the food processor (you could also use a blender). Add the paper and process until the paper is completely broken down.
4. Use a muffin tin, egg carton, or your bare hands to make seed bombs into a sphere. Add a layer of the paper mash to the muffin tin. Then sprinkle in a layer of seeds. Then top off the seeds with another layer of the paper mash. Be sure to press the paper firmly, to be sure that the fibers all stick together around the seeds inside.
5. Now, wait for the seed bombs to dry. Set them aside to dry for a few hours.
6. Once the seed bombs are dry, they are ready to take outside. Now, you can grow flowers that the bees, and other pollinators, will love in their home gardens!

## Resources

IDEM's Recycle Guys page provides recycling and environmental coloring, activities pages, and story book. The pages offer a fun way to learn about the environment and how we can each protect Indiana's air, water, and land. The pages correlate with the Indiana Department of Education Academic Standards for K-2 and 3-6 grades in: English/Language Arts; Science; Social Studies; and Mathematics.

Visit [IDEM's Activities for Kids](http://IDEM's Activities for Kids) website to view all the environmental coloring and activities pages.

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Indiana Department of  
Environmental Management

