

Bulletin

Issue 12 • Spring 2025

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!

Latest News

We Want to Hear from YOU!

We'd like to hear what resources you need in your classroom and how we can help to provide those resources.

Please fill out this short survey (we promise it's short...) to let us know what you'd like to see in future bulletins and shared resources.



SCAN SURVEY QR CODE

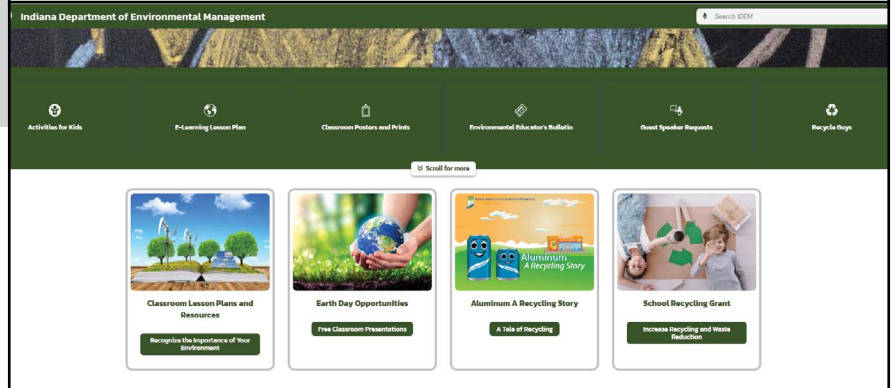
To see what we currently provide, visit our website and past bulletins.

www.idem.IN.gov/iee

www.idem.IN.gov/iee/environmental-education-bulletin-for-educators

Help us help you!

What information would you like to see in the Environmental Educator Bulletin?
What program topics would you like us to provide?



Classroom Presentations

Have IDEM Visit Your Classroom to Celebrate Earth Day!

Every year, IDEM employees throughout the state visit classrooms during the month of April in celebration of Earth Day. They share their experiences and expertise with students while teaching various topics about air, land, and water quality. Your students can learn about the water cycle, how long their trash lasts in a landfill, how to reduce their trash, how to recycle, and more.

If you are interested in having an IDEM representative visit your classroom let us know! Registration is required and is open Feb 3-21. For more information and to register, visit our Earth Day page.

www.idem.IN.gov/iee/guest-speaker-requests/earth-day-elementary-school-classroom-presentations/



Upcoming Events

HASTI Conference

Feb 15-17 Noblesville

www.hasti.org/

Earth Day Indiana

May 31 Garfield Park, Indianapolis

www.earthdayindiana.org/jcindy.org/earth-day/

Indiana State Fair

Aug 1-17 Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis

Come see us in the DNR Building!

www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair



Topics to Share

Tri-Township Consolidated Schools Using CRGP Award for Recycling Efforts

Tri-Township Consolidated Schools, in LaPorte County, was awarded \$1,027 through IDEM's Community Recycling Grant Program (CRGP). The funding will be used to enhance their recycling program by purchasing recycle bins for classrooms and offices, dual trash and recycling bins for public spaces, and recycling collection carts.

Their recycling program is more than bins, they will also be raising awareness about dealing with today's waste and educating students on sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The CRGP provides funding for schools, universities, counties, municipalities, solid waste management districts, and nonprofit organizations in Indiana. Next funding round is set for summer 2025!

For eligibility, funding, and match requirements, visit www.idem.IN.gov/recycle



Activity Corner

Spring is coming, and with spring comes migration!

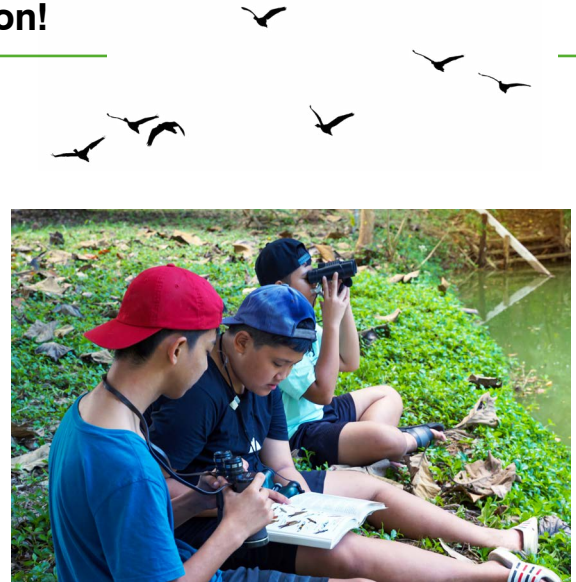


Spring is a great time to see birds that are migrating through as well as those that are returning for the warmer months. If you are wondering who all those chatty little birds are, the Merlin Bird app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology can help!

It is a great resource whether you are trying to identify by sight or by sound. You can use the bird wizard function to work step by step through identifying features of a bird you have seen, use the sound ID to determine species by call and record your observations for future reference, and can even try to get an identification by a photo.

Their website is also an excellent resource if you want to learn more about the bird after you get an ID, and also includes K-12 classroom resources, live webcams worldwide, as well as tips and equipment to help you be the best birder you can be!

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>



Resources

Reduce Waste in Your School

Have you made a resolution for the new year to reduce waste in your school? Unsure where to start and how to get people involved? Check out these tips and a comprehensive guide from the EPA. www.epa.gov/schools/reducing-waste-schools

Food Waste Prevention Week, April 7-13, 2025

Approximately 30-40% of food in the USA ends up in landfills. That equals about 133 billion pounds of food at a cost of \$161 billion. Reducing food waste is one big way that we can all help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve resources, and save money. Learn more about food waste and how you can get your students and peers engaged in reducing food waste in school and at home here: www.foodwastepreventionweek.com/k-12schools



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Indiana Department of
Environmental Management