

# Environmental Health



(Coal ash ponds at a Duke Energy plant in southwest Indiana [Photo: BlairPhotoEVV])

Prepared for the Amanda Qualls Campaign

April Sellers

Second Draft

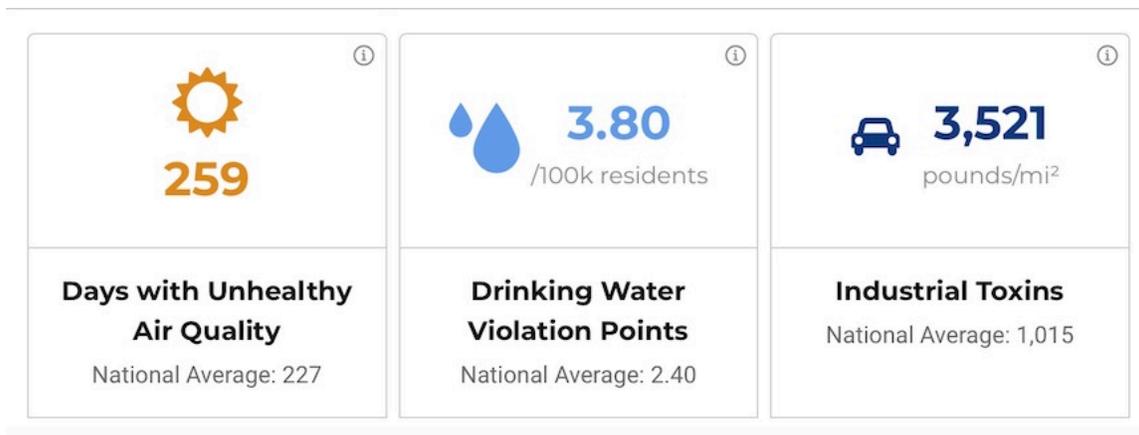
Summer 2020

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## The State of the Environment: A Summary

An article published two years ago in the IndyStar<sup>1</sup> asserted that Indiana had a "polluted reputation," based on U.S. News & World Report's "Best States" rankings at that time, which placed Indiana in the 46th spot for natural environment (an assessment based on drinking water and urban air quality, industrial toxins, and pollution health risks). A year later, Indiana fared slightly worse, dropping to 48th in the rankings (with separate "Air and Water Quality" and "Pollution" rankings of 39 and 49, respectively). The 2019 U.S. News & World Report rankings, based on the most recent data available as of February 2019, further indicate that Indiana has more unhealthy air quality days than the national average, and drinking water violation points 58% higher than the national average (3.80/100k residents vs. 2.40/100k residents). Additionally, according to the same report, Indiana produces 3,521 pounds of industrial toxins per square mile — over three times the national average of 1,015.<sup>2</sup>



(Infographic from *Best States 2019: Indiana*, under "Natural Environment" tab.)

As "The RV Capital of the World" and a major contributor to Indiana's sale of agricultural products, Elkhart County is far from boasting a pristine environment. According to World Health Organization data from 2018, the Elkhart-Goshen area was

<sup>1</sup> Hopkins, Emily (2018, April 19). *Indiana has a polluted reputation. Here's how bad it is.* IndyStar. <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/04/19/how-bad-indianas-environment-actually-according/525003002/>

<sup>2</sup> *Best States 2019.* U.S. News & World Report. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/indiana#state-recommended-articles>

rated among the more polluted cities in the United States.<sup>3</sup> Within the last decade, the county was in the news for two prominent industrial pollution cases: one filed against VIM Recycling by residents of Baugo Township who suffered years of headaches and respiratory problems, among other ailments, resulting from smoke and odors emitting from the company's plant,<sup>4</sup> and another lawsuit arising from Flexsteel Industries, Inc., a supplier of furniture to the recreational vehicle industry, contaminating groundwater along County Road 6 with hazardous chemicals.<sup>5</sup> These problems are neither new nor unusual. Six areas within the county have been identified as Superfund sites by the Environmental Protection Agency or placed on that agency's National Priorities List.<sup>6</sup>

## *Air Quality*

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the first quarter of 2019 indicate that 97.09% of Hoosiers live in counties or townships that meet all air quality standards, over 7 percentage points over the stated target of 92.00%.<sup>7</sup>

The American Lung Association (ALA) paints a less rosy picture in its *State of the Air* report, issued annually. *State of the Air 2020* assigned non-failing grades to 17 of Indiana's 92 counties for "High Ozone Days," with 12 counties earning a grade of "F," and the remaining 63 marked "DNC" or "INC," meaning there is no monitor collecting data in that county or incomplete monitoring data for 2016-2018.<sup>8</sup> The ALA awarded Elkhart County an "F" for "High Ozone Days," as the county experienced 10

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<sup>3</sup> Christensen, Jen (2019, May 1). *Which cities face most, least air pollution according to new WHO data.* CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/01/health/air-pollution-cities-who-study/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> Allen, Kevin. (2015, December 1). *Elkhart residents get \$50 million in air pollution case.* South Bend Tribune. [https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/elkhart-residents-get-50-million-in-air-pollution-case/article\\_0a20a8d6-9840-11e5-8b9c-f700ecde9dcd.html](https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/elkhart-residents-get-50-million-in-air-pollution-case/article_0a20a8d6-9840-11e5-8b9c-f700ecde9dcd.html)

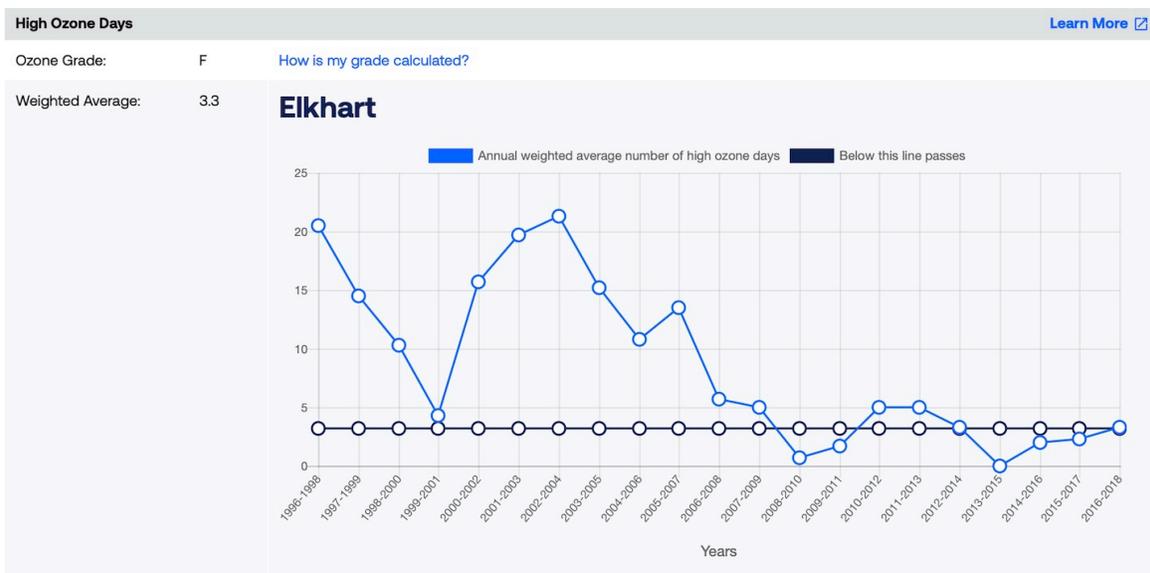
<sup>5</sup> RVBusiness. (2013, December 27). *Flexsteel settles 'water contamination lawsuit.'* <https://rvbusiness.com/flexsteel-settles-water-contamination-lawsuit/>

<sup>6</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2020). *Search for Superfund Sites Where You Live.* <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/search-superfund-sites-where-you-live>

<sup>7</sup> Indiana Department of Environmental Management. (2019). *Agency Efficiency Metric Q1 2019.* <http://www.state.in.us/idem/5205.htm>

<sup>8</sup> American Lung Association. (2020.) *The State of the Air 2020 Report Card: Indiana.* <http://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/states/indiana/>

"Orange" (Unhealthy for sensitive populations) days during the three-year data period, for an annual weighted average of 3.3 high ozone days.<sup>9</sup>



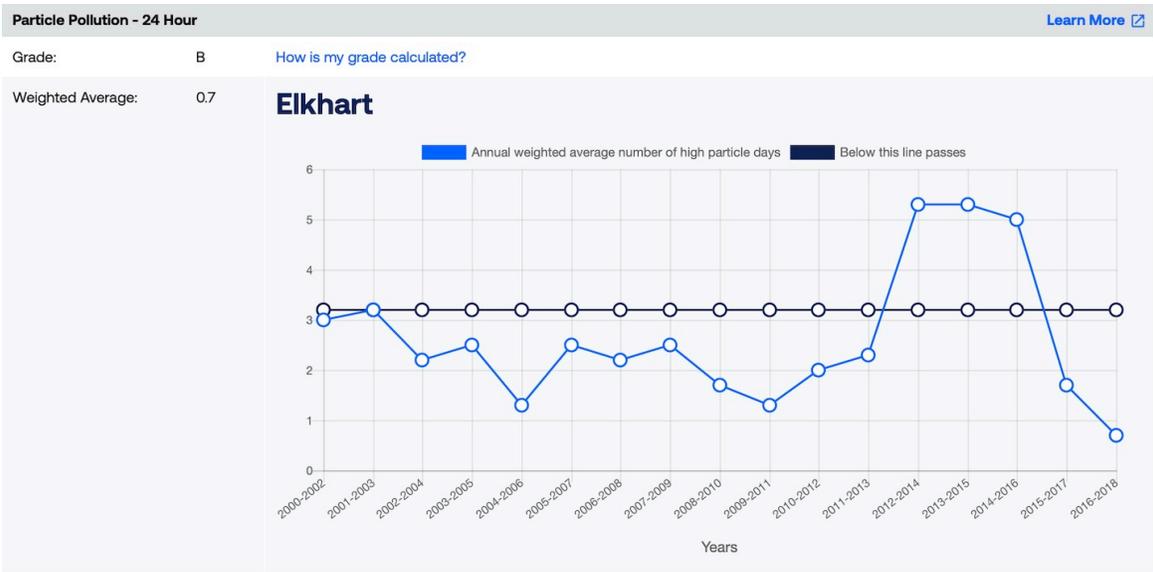
(Graph from *The State of the Air 2020 Report Card: Indiana: Elkhart*.)

The state fares better with respect to particle pollution, with 14 counties scoring A's, 7 scoring B's, and one county each receiving a "C" or "D." No county was graded an "F." Elkhart earned a "B" for short-term particle pollution (2 "Orange" days during the data period, for an annual weighted average of .7 high particle days), and a "Pass" for annual particle pollution (at or below 12 micrograms of particle pollution per cubic meter of air).

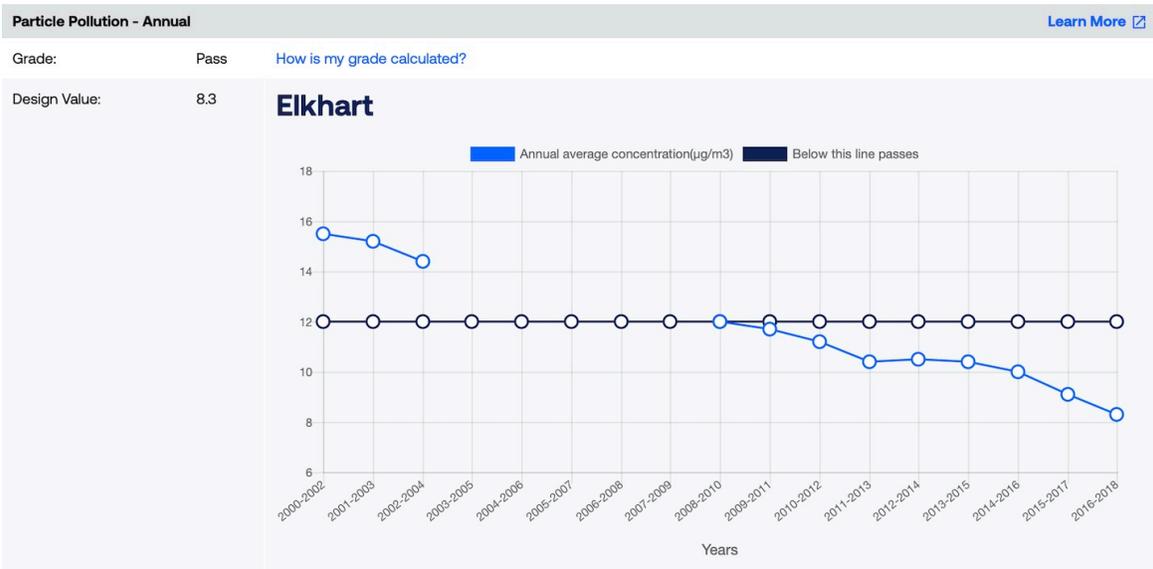
The twenty-year snapshot provided by the ALA shows a general increase in air quality within Elkhart County. For example, the county experienced 21.3 "High Ozone Days" per year between 2002 and 2004; in the last decade, the number of such days has fluctuated between 0 and 5.

Although the number of high particle pollution days spiked in 2012-2014, remaining high for a handful of years, it fell dramatically, reaching a twenty-year low in 2016-2018. Additionally, Elkhart's annual average concentration of particle pollution has declined consistently over the past decade, from an already-passing measurement of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> American Lung Association. (2020.) *The State of the Air 2020 Report Card: Indiana: Elkhart*. <http://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/states/indiana/elkhart.html>



(Graph from *The State of the Air 2020 Report Card: Indiana: Elkhart.*)



(Graph from *The State of the Air 2020 Report Card: Indiana: Elkhart.*)

## Water Quality

IDEM's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the first quarter of 2019 indicate that 99.70% of Hoosiers have "Excellent Drinking Water," as measured by "the population of public water systems that did not have any violations (treatment technique, action level, maximum contaminate level, etc.).<sup>10</sup> This represents a very slight dip from

<sup>10</sup> Indiana Department of Environmental Management. (2019). *Agency Efficiency Metric Q1 2019*. <http://www.state.in.us/idem/5205.htm>

the fourth quarter of 2018, and an increase from a low of 96% in 2013.

## ***Contributing Factors***

- Manufacturing

More than 80% of global recreational vehicle production is based in Elkhart County.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, manufacturing of furniture and kitchen cabinets is "16 times more important to Elkhart than the nation overall."<sup>12</sup> Wood products and metal manufacturing are similarly concentrated in the county.<sup>13</sup> When the local supply chain and other manufacturing operations are taken into consideration, manufacturing accounts for nearly half of all employment in Elkhart.<sup>14</sup>

The sector's outsized role in the local economy no doubt contributes to the county's smog problem, as common pollutants emitted by manufacturing activity include: nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, as seen from the Flexsteel Industries case, heavy metals, waste water from some manufacturing processes, and improper storage of chemicals can wind up in the local water supply.

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<sup>11</sup> Hesselbart, Al. (2016, June 1). *How Elkhart Became The RV Capital of the World*. Inside Indiana Business. <https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/32117836/thursday-how-elkhart-became-the-rv-capital-of-the-world>

<sup>12</sup> Deval, R., & Crews, J. (2019). *Most Dynamic Metropolitans*. Heartland Forward and Walton Family Foundation. Available at <https://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/learning/most-dynamic-metropolitans>

<sup>13</sup> Deval, R. & Crews, J. *Most Dynamic Metropolitans*.

<sup>14</sup> Deval, R. & Crews, J. *Most Dynamic Metropolitans*.

<sup>15</sup> Shapiro, J. & Walker, R. (2015). *Why is Pollution from U.S. Manufacturing Declining? The Roles of Trade, Regulation, Productivity, and Preferences*. U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies. <https://www2.census.gov/ces/wp/2015/CES-WP-15-03.pdf>

- Agriculture

As of 2017, there were 1,667 farms in Elkhart County, totaling approximately 175,000 acres.<sup>16</sup> Soybeans and corn represented the most commonly produced crops, while poultry and eggs, cattle and calves, and cow milk were the top three sources of animal-based agricultural product sales.<sup>17</sup>

Like manufacturing, agriculture has its attendant problems. Sources of agricultural pollution include nitrogen-based fertilizers, chemical pesticides, animal manure, poultry waste, and methane from cattle.<sup>18</sup> Nitrogen and phosphorous produced from fertilizers and manure, along with the chemicals from pesticide, can be washed from farm fields as a result of rainfall or snowmelt and into waterways, and negatively impact air, downstream water quality, and soil.<sup>19</sup> Poor location or management of animal feeding operations, overgrazing, and plowing too often or at the wrong time are some of the farming activities that result in environmental harm.<sup>20</sup>

The cumulative effect of these products and activities is that "agricultural non point source (NPS) pollution is the leading source of water quality impacts on surveyed rivers and streams, the third largest source for lakes, the second largest source of impairments to wetlands, and a major contributor to contamination of surveyed estuaries and ground water."<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> National Agricultural Statistics Service. (2017). *Census of Agriculture County Profile: Elkhart County, Indiana*. United States Department of Agriculture. [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/Indiana/cp18039.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Indiana/cp18039.pdf):

<sup>17</sup> National Agricultural Statistics Service. *Census of Agriculture County Profile: Elkhart County, Indiana*.

<sup>18</sup> Lindwall, Courtney. (2019, July 31). *Industrial Agricultural Pollution 101*. National Resources Defense Council. <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/industrial-agricultural-pollution-101>

<sup>19</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.) *Nutrient Pollution, The Sources and Solutions: Agriculture*. <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/sources-and-solutions-agriculture>

<sup>20</sup> <sup>20</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.) *Polluted Runoff: Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution*. <https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-agriculture>

<sup>21</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Polluted Runoff: Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution*.

## Legislative Action in Indiana

The following section summarizes legislative action that has been taken within the last two years. The font colors used below indicate the party to which the legislator belongs, where blue is 'Democratic' and red is 'Republican.'

### *Recently Passed Legislation*

- **Public Law 91-2020/Senate Enrolled Act No. 438**

*Subject - Agriculture*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. Jean Leising (42)	Sen. Susan Glick (13)
<i>Sponsor Name (District)</i>	
Rep. Don Lehe (25)	Rep. J.D. Prescott (33)

Amends portions of IC 15-16-4, governing pesticide registration and pesticide use and application, and requires working group to review and make recommendations for civil penalties for misuse of pesticides.

- **Public Law 122-2020/House Enrolled Act No. 1265**

*Subject - Water Quality*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Rep. Carolyn Jackson (1)	Rep. David Wolkins* (18)
Rep. Earl Harris* (2)	Rep. Mike Aylesworth* (11)
<i>Sponsor Name (District)</i>	
Sen. Lonnie Randolph (2)	Sen. Rick Niemeyer (6)
Sen. Mark Stoops (40)	Sen. John Ruckelshaus (30)
Sen. James Buck (21)	Sen. J.D. Ford (29)
Sen. David Niezgodski (10)	Sen. Mark Messmer (48)
Sen. Jack Sandlin (36)	

Adds IC 16-41-21.1-3 as new section, requiring testing of drinking water in schools before January 1, 2023, in order to determine whether the water equals or exceeds the action level for lead of 15 parts per billion.

• **Public Law 21-2019/Senate Enrolled Act No. 632**

*Subject - Air Quality*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. Eric Bassler (39)	Sen. Eddie Melton (3)
Sen. Ed Charbonneau (5)	Sen. Jean Breaux* (34)
<i>Sponsor Name (District)</i>	
Rep. Robert Heaton (46)	Rep. Ronald Bacon (75)
Rep. Shane Lindauer (63)	Rep. Anthony Cook (32)
Rep. Carey Hamilton (87)	

Requires state department of health to distribute manual of best practices for managing indoor air quality at schools, including recommendations for radon testing, to the legislative council, department of education, the facilities manager and superintendent of each school corporation, and the chief administrative officer of each accredited nonpublic school.

• **Public Law 8-2018/Senate Enrolled Act No. 100**

*Subject - Air Pollution*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. Michael Delph (29)	Sen. Michael Crider (28)
Sen. James Merritt (31)	Sen. Blake Doriot* (12)
Sen. Jon Ford* (38)	Sen. Jack Sandlin* (36)
Sen. John Crane* (24)	
<i>Sponsor Name (District)</i>	
Rep. Woody Burton (58)	Rep. Karlee Macer (92)
Rep. Randall Frye (67)	Rep. Joe Taylor (7)

Provides that fire departments may offer carbon monoxide emissions testing to owners of motor vehicles, free of charge. Specifies manner of testing and record keeping requirements.

OTHER RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION OF NOTE

- **Public Law 126-2020/House Enrolled Act No. 1309** - pertains to variance relating to water quality standard/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Eliminates the requirement that IDEM itself administer a certification examination for operators of certain water-related plants and systems and, allowing exam to be done by independent third parties authorized by IDEM commissioner.
- **Public Law 165-2020/House Enrolled Act No. 1414** - directs public utilities that own and operate reliable capacity electric generation resources to continue to operate and maintain them. Prohibits retiring, selling, or transferring certain reliable capacity resources before May 1, 2021 without prior written notice of intent and a public hearing. Effectively makes it harder for utilities in the state to retire their coal plants.
- **Public Law 15-2019/Senate Enrolled Act No. 4** - establishes storm water management task force to study issues related to storm water management systems. Mandates every water utility must perform annual audit of its water distribution system.
- **Public Law 250-2019/House Enrolled Act No. 1278** - establishes task force to evaluate specified aspects of the state's policies concerning electric generation portfolios, and to issue a report with recommendations by December 1, 2020. Requires study of statewide impacts of transitions to new and emerging technologies for generating electricity. Revises assorted laws on state solid waste management fee and environmental fees.
- **Public Law 291-2019/Senate Enrolled Act No. 442** - authorizes establishment of a carbon sequestration pilot project at a proposed ammonia production facility in West Terre Haute.

## Recently Failed Legislation

All following bills are from the 2020 legislative session, unless otherwise noted in parentheses.

- **Senate Bill 248**

*Subject - Agriculture*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. Rick Niemeyer (6)	

Would have mandated IDEM-conducted onsite inspections of concentrated animal feeding operations, as defined in IC 13-11-2-38.3, at least once a year.

- **Senate Bill 286**

*Subject - Lead Testing and Abatement*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. Jean Breaux (34)	Sen. Mark Stoops* (40)

Would define "elevated blood lead level" and "lead poisoning" for purposes of health law; provide that governing bodies of school corporations requires all students be tested for elevated blood lead level and does not allow for enrollment unless student has provided documentation of said test to the school corporation. Would also impose notification requirements on health care workers if child tests positive, and make renting dwelling units to families with children under six years old if the unit is subject to lead hazard a Class C misdemeanor.

- **Senate Bill 414**

*Subject - Water Pollution*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. Eddie Melton (3)	Sen. Mark Stoops* (40)

Requires Indiana State Department of Health to establish maximum contaminant levels for likely/known carcinogens/toxic chemicals; establishes maximum contaminant levels

for perfluoroalkyl/polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), chromium-6, and 1,4-dioxane in water provided by public water systems.

- **House Bill 1366**

*Subject - Industrial Waste*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Rep. Don Lehe (25)	Rep. Doug Gutwein* (16)
Rep. Sharon Negele* (13)	

Would provide that in determining whether a biosolid or an industrial waste product must be evaluated for characteristics of hazardous waste under certain applicable federal regulations, IDEM may not apply standards more stringent than the federal standard.

- **Senate Bill 397 (2019)**

*Subject - Lead Poisoning*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Sen. David Niezgodski (10)	

Sought to mandate state action to reduce lead poisoning. Current law permits such action, but does not require it.

- **House Bill 1044 (2019)**

*Subject - Agriculture*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
Rep. Ronald Bacon (75)	Rep. Thomas Saunders* (54)

Would have restricted approval for construction or expansion of confined feeding operations (CFO) if the manure unit or exhaust system located at the CFO posed a threat to water or air quality in the surrounding area. Also would have imposed restrictions on release of certain greenhouse gases, ammonia, and particulate matter from the CFO.

• **House Bill 1378 (2019)**

*Subject - Agriculture*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
<a href="#">Rep. Sue Errington (34)</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Thomas Saunders* (54)</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Carey Hamilton* (87)</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Ronald Bacon* (75)</a>

Would have provided for IDEM to issue CFO permits instead of "approvals," and require such a permit prior to any construction or modification of a CFO. Also would have required commissioner of IDEM to deny a permit application if the proposed activity would substantially endanger public health or the environment, and imposed limits on hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds, and ammonia emissions.

• **House Bill 1012 (2018)**

*Subject - Air Pollution*

<i>Author Name (District)</i>	<i>* = co-author</i>
<a href="#">Rep. B Patrick Bauer (6)</a>	

Aimed at prohibiting use of neonicotinoids (insecticides with chemical structure similar to that of nicotine).

#### OTHER RECENTLY FAILED LEGISLATION OF NOTE

- **Senate Bill 73** - sought to direct IDEM to collect the name and address of each person who reports a potential environmental violation; upon request of a person to whom a violation report refers, the reporting individual's name would have to be disclosed unless excepted under public records laws.
- **Senate Bill 276** - would have directed the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs to assess potential for developing low-carbon, green industries in Indiana, and the economic/job impact that could result. The 2020 session marks the third year in a row this bill has been proposed.
- **Senate Bill 368** - urged legislative council to assign interim study committee to study carbon sequestration through conserving forest lands, reforestation, and carbon farming.
- **House Bill 1257** - would have established reporting and public notice requirements in the event of a spill of certain substances into waters of the state. Would also set civil penalties and make failure to report or provide notice a Class A misdemeanor or Level 6 felony, depending on whether there has been a prior violation.
- **House Bill 1357** - would require commissioner of IDEM to engage independent testing service to test and analyze the Indiana waters of Lake Michigan for presence/concentration of pollutants and report results at least four times per year.
- **House Bill 1260 (2019)** - Aimed at prohibiting installation or siting of wind power devices without approval through a local public question.
- **House Bill 1365 (2019)** - Would have repealed prohibition against certain counties from constructing, operating, or otherwise being involved in light rail projects.
- **Senate Bill 318 (2018)** - Would have required electricity suppliers to supply a certain percentage of its total electricity supply from renewable energy resources.
- **House Bill 1291 (2018)** - Would have revised sections of the water pollution control law to more effectively prevent fertilizer runoff and discharges into Lake Michigan.

## Legislative Action in Other States

Progressive legislation aimed at curbing pollution and developing renewable energy sources has been proposed and, in some instances, enacted in several states around the country. While the demographics, economies, and political climates of those states may vary from Indiana's, these legislative successes may nonetheless provide useful guidance in moving toward cleaner air, water, and soil, and more sustainable industry.

### *Hawaii*

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**Bill:** HB 623

**Status:** Signed into law in 2015

The law requires Hawaii to be 100% dependent on renewable energy by 2045.<sup>22</sup>

**Bill:** SB 559

**Status:** Signed into law in 2017

With the enactment of SB 559, Hawaii became the first state in the country to commit to the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the Paris Agreement.<sup>23</sup>

### *Illinois*

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**Bill:** Clean Energy Jobs Act

**Status:** Introduced during 2019 legislative session

SB 2132/HB 3624, dubbed the "Clean Energy Jobs Act," is presently winding its way through the Illinois General Assembly, with the purported aim of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2050, encouraging and incentivizing electric vehicles, and reducing carbon emissions to zero in the power sector in the next decade.<sup>24</sup>

**Bill:** Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act

**Status:** Signed into law in 2019

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<sup>22</sup> HB 623, 28th Leg., Reg. Sess. (Haw. 2015). [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/HB623\\_.pdf](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/HB623_.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> SB 559, 29th Leg., Reg. Sess. (Haw. 2017). [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2017/bills/SB559\\_CD1\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2017/bills/SB559_CD1_.htm)

<sup>24</sup> Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. (2020). *About the Clean Energy Jobs Act*. <https://ilcleanjobs.org/who-we-are/clean-energy-jobs-act/>

The Coal Ash Pollution Prevent Act (Public Act 101-0171), targeting coal ash dumpsites that have contributed to pollution in nearby groundwater, funds cleanup programs through permit fees and requires "performance bonds or other financial security to ensure that companies set aside the money to close and clean up coal ash ponds."<sup>25</sup>

## *Michigan*

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**Bill:** HB 4212

**Status:** Introduced in 2019

Sought to change Michigan law, which allowed polluters to merely restrict access to polluted sites, and require polluters to clean up contamination resulting from their activities.<sup>26</sup>

**Bill:** SB 247

**Status:** Introduced in 2019

If enacted, the proposed amendment to the "Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act" would have prohibited the application of "manure, fertilizer..., or waste from livestock operations to frozen or snow-covered soil."<sup>27</sup>

## *Virginia*

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**Bill:** Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act

**Status:** Signed into law in 2020

With the Act, Virginia joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap-and-trade program designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. It also created a flood preparedness fund.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> The Sierra Club (2019, July 30). *Milestone Bill to Clean Up Coal Ash Pollution in Illinois Becomes Law*. <https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2019/07/milestone-bill-clean-coal-ash-pollution-illinois-becomes-law>

<sup>26</sup> Stanton, Ryan (2019, February 15). *Ann Arbor lawmakers propose polluter-pay cleanup law for Michigan*. [MLive.com](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2019/02/ann-arbor-lawmakers-propose-polluter-pay-cleanup-law-for-michigan.html). <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2019/02/ann-arbor-lawmakers-propose-polluter-pay-cleanup-law-for-michigan.html>

<sup>27</sup> SB 247, 100th Leg., Reg. Sess. (Mich. 2019). <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2019-SIB-0247.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Office of the Governor. (2020, April 12.) *Governor Northam Signs Clean Energy Legislation* [Press release]. <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/april/headline-856056-en.html>

**Bill:** Virginia Clean Economy Act

**Status:** Signed into law in 2020

Requires new measures promoting energy efficiency, order nearly all coal-fired plants to close by 2024, and requires electricity to come from 100 percent renewable resources by 2050.<sup>29</sup>

## Relevant Advocacy Groups

American Farmland Trust	<a href="https://farmland.org/">https://farmland.org/</a>
Environmental Defense Fund	<a href="https://www.edf.org/">https://www.edf.org/</a>
Environmental Law & Policy Center	<a href="http://elpc.org/">http://elpc.org/</a>
Hoosier Environmental Council	<a href="https://www.hecweb.org/">https://www.hecweb.org/</a>
Indiana Farm Bureau	<a href="https://www.infarmbureau.org">https://www.infarmbureau.org</a>
Indiana Water Monitoring Council	<a href="https://www.inwmc.net/">https://www.inwmc.net/</a>
The Nature Conservancy	<a href="https://www.nature.org/en-us/">https://www.nature.org/en-us/</a>
The Sierra Club	<a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/">https://www.sierraclub.org/</a>

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<sup>29</sup> Office of the Governor, *Governor Northam Signs Clean Energy Legislation*.