

# Well-Respected Children’s Environmental Health Group to Become a Part of Indiana’s Largest Environmental Public Policy Organization

For twenty years, **Improving Kids’ Environment** (IKE) has been the statewide non-profit leader in helping to safeguard children from environmental threats at home, at school, and in the community.

To sustain its vital mission, IKE — starting on Children’s Environmental Health Day (October 10<sup>th</sup>) — will become a part of the **Hoosier Environmental Council** (HEC).

## HEC Will Build on IKE’s Great Legacy of Helping Kids through Three Initiatives:

### 1.) Provide an online portal on children’s environmental health



The Hoosier Environmental Council has long been a prime online source for Indiana environmental information. As Improving Kids’ Environment joins HEC, we are continuing IKE’s excellent online presence and building on it. Our aim is to provide information to Indiana families, educators, and health care professionals to keep the children in their care healthy where they live, learn, and play.



### 2.) Reduce lead poisoning in Indiana



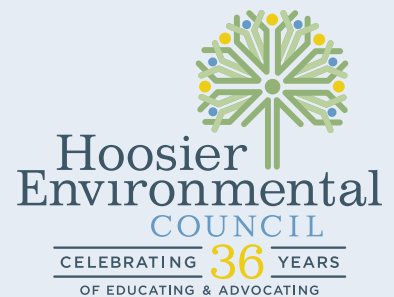
More than 1,000 Indiana children each year have elevated blood lead levels that could damage their intelligence and put them at increased risk of behavioral problems<sup>1</sup>. There is no cure for lead poisoning; prevention is the only answer. HEC is working with other state health leaders on an advisory committee to look at public policy options and new program strategies to reduce lead poisoning in Indiana.



### 3.) Ensure Indiana’s children have clean water to drink and clean streams and lakes to play in



Keeping water resources clean is vital for our children. Children drink more water per pound of body weight than adults, and kids love playing in water, be it in backyard puddles, local creeks, or at a lakeshore. The top pollutant in Indiana’s waters is *E coli*, a bacterium that comes from fecal contamination<sup>2</sup>. HEC is working at the state and local levels to reduce contamination from both human and livestock waste.



Improving Kids’ Environment

## Contact Us

To learn more about how HEC will be carrying on IKE’s legacy of advancing children’s environmental health initiatives, please reach Dr. Indra Frank, MD, MPH, HEC’s Environmental Health Director, at [ifrank@hecweb.org](mailto:ifrank@hecweb.org).

To learn more about the merger between IKE and HEC, please reach Jesse Kharbanda, the Executive Director of HEC, at [jkharbanda@hecweb.org](mailto:jkharbanda@hecweb.org) or Dr. Margaret Frericks, outgoing Program Director, IKE, at [mfrericks@ikecoalition.org](mailto:mfrericks@ikecoalition.org).

<sup>1</sup> Indiana State Department of Health. Annual Lead Reports.

<sup>2</sup> Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report.