

Improving Kids' Environment

Advocates for Children's Environmental Health

Children's Environmental Health Newsletter

January 2010

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IKE Highlights

Ms. McCabe goes to Washington; IKE to get new Executive Director

This fall Janet McCabe, the much loved and highly productive executive director of IKE since 2005, was recruited to a position with U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C. In November, following the Lead Conference, Janet joined EPA as the principal deputy to Gina McCarthy, the assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. All of us here at IKE wish her all the best in her new position! We miss you! Her move garnered a bit of press coverage:

<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20091101/GREEN03/91109057>). Following Janet's resignation, the IKE Board of Directors initiated a search for a new executive director. The search is going well, and we hope to be filling the position in early 2010. The IKE office is up and running in the interim with participation by various board members and our administrative assistant. IKE can now be reached at ike@ikecoalition.org. For urgent matters contact board president Indra Frank at 317-292-7311.

2009 Indiana Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Conference

This year's Indiana Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Conference was a success! The conference was attended

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Special thanks to the Environmental Management Institute and Jack and Karen Kay Leonard for their support of this newsletter and IKE's webpage. While IKE appreciates their support, their sponsorship does not imply endorsement of IKE or the content of this newsletter. IKE is wholly responsible for the content of this newsletter.

Key acronyms:

[ISDH = Indiana State Department of Health](#)
[IDEM = Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#)
[IHCDA = Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority](#)
[CDC = U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
[HUD = U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

by 175 individuals from all over the state of Indiana. The Opening Plenary Session included three key-note speakers: John Hall, director of Indiana HUD; Loren Robertson, State Health Deputy Commissioner; and Taran Jefferies, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These presenters provided a fantastic opening to the conference. The second day was opened by Jon Gant from US Housing and Urban Development. The feedback from the conference could not have been more positive and we are certain many of the attendees will be back again next year. Next year's Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Conference is scheduled for November 3 & 4, 2010.

10th Year Anniversary Party for Improving Kids' Environment

This year IKE celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a party graciously hosted by Children's Museum of Indianapolis. The anniversary was attended by 170 guests, including Master of Ceremonies Debbie Knox from WISH TV. As part of the event we enjoyed entertainment by the Indianapolis Children's Choir. To celebrate IKE's 10th year we compiled a 10th Anniversary Report, which is available on our homepage at www.ikecoalition.org under "What's Up at IKE." Improving Kids' Environment would like to thank the sponsors whose generosity made the celebration possible: Hybrivet Systems, Duke Foundation, Citizens Energy, Cindy Collier Consulting, Perras and Associates, Troy Risk, Managed Health Services, Baker and Daniels, Spalding and Himes, Keramida Incorporated, Gardens Alive, and Newell Pugh, MD.

New Administrative Assistant for IKE

In October Chris Seyffarth joined IKE as the new administrative assistant. Chris is in his first year as a graduate student at IUPUI in the Masters of Public Health program (MPH) and his focus is in Management and Health Policy. Our former assistant, Lauren Stanicic, has moved to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) at the Family and Social Services Administration, where she is working on treatment options for youth and young adults suffering from mental and behavioral health problems. IKE wants to wish Lauren the best of luck with her new endeavor. Chris is looking forward to meeting and working with all the wonderful people and agencies associated with IKE.

Legislative News

2010 Legislative Session

At the time of this writing, the legislative session is still in its very earliest stages, but several bills of potential interest have already been introduced. A full listing is available at www.in.gov/legislative/index.htm by clicking on "Bills and Resolutions".

- [SB 0024](#) -- Confined feeding operation setbacks
- [SB 0069](#) -- Low carbon and noncarbon dioxide emitting plants.
- [SB 0094](#) -- Renewable energy development.
- [SB 0097](#) -- Net metering.
- [SB 0115](#) -- Eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipeline.
- [SB 0127](#) -- Underground storage tank corrective action.

There are also a number of other topics of interest that may be introduced:

- Banning of phosphate in lawn fertilizer unless critical need
- Outdoor air at schools – air toxics
- Biomonitoring of people for pollutants
- Study of actual environmental and energy costs/benefits of ethanol as fuel

Conservation Day at the Statehouse

Conservation Day 2010, sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance, will be held Tuesday, January 26, at the Indiana Statehouse from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. The day starts with information sessions on INCA's priorities for this year: reauthorization of the Lakes Management Work Group, a renewable electricity standard, and limiting phosphorous in lawn fertilizer. Then there is a reception with organizational booths and opportunities to speak with your legislators. Register at

<http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/indiana/events/events6038.html>

Request for Authorization of Renovation, Repair and Painting Program

The state health department is working with Senator Patricia Miller on a bill, SB 0175, that would allow the agency to apply for EPA authorization to administer the federal Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. The Lead-Safe Housing Advisory Council recommended this move in its report (http://ikecoalition.org/SEA143/Final_Report_10-30-09.doc). The federal rule takes effect April 22, 2010. It requires lead-safe work practices for renovation of housing, child care facilities, or schools that have lead paint. Contractors performing such renovations will be required to be lead certified.

Sewage and Clean Water

Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009

The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009 was introduced in Congress on April 2, 2009. It would "amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to replace the term "navigable waters" that are subject to such Act with the more inclusive term "waters of the United States," (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s787/show>). This legislation would clear up legal confusion and restore federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction to wetlands and small streams, which lost that protection under a narrow 2006 U.S. Supreme Court decision. Unfortunately there have been some myths circulating about the Clean Water Restoration Act. The organization Clean Water Action gives accurate information about the act and explains why the myths are false. Please see the full article at: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/clean-water-restoration-act-2009-myths-and-facts>.

EPA to Hold Public Listening Sessions on Potential Storm Water Rule

from Water Headlines January 4, 2010

The U.S. EPA has scheduled five listening sessions to gather public input about a potential rule to strengthen storm water regulations and to establish a comprehensive program to reduce storm water from new development and redevelopment. These potential regulations

would help to reduce storm water discharges that can harm water quality in nearby waterways. Learn more and register at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking.cfm>

Lead and Healthy Homes

Lead Advisory Council Report

The Indiana Lead-Safe Housing Advisory Council, the body established under Senate Enrolled Act 143 (2008), finalized its report at the end of October. Included in it were specific recommendations to the Governor and legislature. The full report is available on the IKE website at http://ikecoalition.org/SEA143/Final_Report_10-30-09.doc.

The report recommends that the State of Indiana work to:

- review and define insurance needed for licensed abatement contractors and certified renovators
- ensure that historic preservation programs are aware of lead issues and inform their associated neighborhood groups and contractors
- increase public awareness
- expand the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund to help child care establishments and homeowners with lead remediation
- pursue all possible public grants for lead remediation
- transfer the Lead Trust Fund from IDEM to ISDH
- pass legislation requiring sellers of recycled building products or antiques to post signs warning of possible lead content
- develop on-line training about lead for child care workers and consider requiring they complete it

Lawsuit Targets Lead Paint in Evansville

Kudos to Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller for joining with the Vanderburgh County Health Department to file suit against two landlords in Evansville for refusal to fix a house in which the tenant's child was found to have elevated blood lead levels. The health department documented lead hazards at the house, but the landlords allegedly ignored multiple warnings to have the hazards addressed. The suit is the first in which Indiana's attorney general has worked with a county to compel action on a lead hazard. See the full story at: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2009/nov/12/lawsuit-targets-lead-paint/>.

Acting Surgeon General Issues 'Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes'

Acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., issued the "Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes" on June 9, 2009. This Call to Action contains guidelines and steps in order to promote and sustain healthy homes.

- Check gas lines, fire places, and air conditioners to make sure they are running efficiently

- Improve water quality by learning to protect and maintain private water wells
- Improve indoor air quality by using detectors such as carbon monoxide and radon detectors

Please see the press release and other informative materials at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/06/20090609a.html>

Healthy Schools and Childcare

Forward Progress on Indoor Air Quality in Schools

Senate Enrolled Act 440, passed into law in 2009, enhanced the existing law regarding inspections of indoor air quality at schools. It requires the Indiana State Department of Health to work with a panel of experts on indoor air quality issues, write rules regarding indoor air quality in schools, and provide a manual of best practices for managing indoor air at schools. The law also bolsters the complaint and reporting requirements. To date, ISDH reports progress in assembling the expert panel and developing the agenda for panel discussions. They are hoping for an initial meeting in the early part of 2010. They have also begun work on drafting the rules and a best practices manual.

SICK SCHOOLS 2009 - National Report Released.

This report, with contributions from policy advocates in 20 states and the District, offers peer-reviewed studies and compelling evidence of how polluted air inside and outside schools escalates health care costs, increases absenteeism, and reduces test scores. To see the full report, please visit this link: <http://www.healthyschools.org/>

Great Sources of Information

With the weather changing and families spending most of their time indoors, it is important to keep mold at bay and maintain indoor air quality. Indiana State Department of Health provides great information on identifying and remedying mold in your home at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/24347.htm>. At high levels, mold can cause cold-like symptoms, rashes, sinusitis, conjunctivitis, and aggravation of asthma. Some related symptoms are more general, such as inability to concentrate and fatigue.

Mark Your Calendars...

Healthy Homes Workshop

- January 27, 2010, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM.
- Elkhart County Health Department, Public Services Building Rooms A & B, 4230 Elkhart Rd., Goshen, IN 46526

- ECHD and EPA Region 5 are offering courses dealing with issues relating to maintaining a Healthy Home. Topics will include items that affect health in the homes such as lead, pests and pesticides, and child safety.
- Register by January 15, 2010, with one of the following representatives to ensure your spot in the course: James Daughtery, (312) 353-4418, DaughteryJames@epa.gov; Lara Lasky, (312) 353-5614, LaskyLara@epa.gov.

Thanks from Improving Kids' Environment!

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