

# IMPROVING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT



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JUNE 2010

## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

### First Homes Remediated with IKE Lead-Safe Homes Fund

One family's home has been made lead-safe and four others are underway thanks to IKE's Lead-Safe Homes Fund. IKE received this thank you note from Rod Smith, father of Nathanael and Thulani Smith (shown in the photo below):

*"Please tell everyone who had anything to do with improving my children's environment that we are very grateful. Every time we came home and saw your workers hard at work, I felt as if we were being met by angels. Nathanael and Thulani are very proud that we were the first house you chose and my prayer is that you are able to do for many, many people, what you were able to do for us."*

IKE's Lead-Safe Homes Fund was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Impact 100 Indianapolis and Janet McCabe and Jon Laramore. The fund helps low-income families participate in a Marion County Health Department program that provides lead remediation. Without IKE's fund, these families would not be able to afford the matching funds required to participate.

So far, IKE has spent \$8,391 and has helped MCHD leverage \$51,683 in federal funding to remediate lead hazards in these homes. There are 17 children living in these homes, including seven age six or younger, and two women of child-bearing age.



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### Support IKE at Go Green Night with Indiana Fever – June 3

Support Improving Kids' Environment and the Indiana Fever at Go Green Night on Thursday, June 3, at 7 p.m. IKE is providing free game tickets to families whose homes have been remediated for lead hazards through our Lead-Safe Homes Fund. We encourage IKE supporters to join us to celebrate lead-safe homes in Marion County and cheer on the Indiana Fever against the San Antonio Silver Stars. Club level tickets, normally \$15.90, are available to IKE supporters for \$11, with a portion of the ticket sales going to IKE. To order tickets, go to <https://www.fevergroups.com/tickets/50>. Use this Password: `ike`



## Air Board to Hold Hearing on Outdoor Wood Boiler Rule

On June 2, the Indiana Air Pollution Control Board will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. at Columbus East High School on a proposed rule to restrict outdoor wood boilers (outdoor hydronic heaters). About 7,500 homes in Indiana use these wood-burning heaters to heat their homes. According to some studies, outdoor wood boilers, also known as Outdoor Hydronic Heaters (OHH), are some of the most polluting and inefficient devices available to homeowners.

This week, IDEM released an updated version of the rule. The new version weakens the previous rule on several fronts:

- Allows units to be operated in the months of May and September, restricting their use only in June, July and August
- Units can operate throughout the year if they are located farther than 300 feet from other homes
- Adds a maximum stack height (22 feet), meaning the stack in some instances may not be higher than the roof of a neighboring home



The rule will require new devices to meet emissions standards, allow them to burn only clean wood and require higher smokestack heights if a neighbor's home is located within 150 feet. See the latest rule information at <http://www.in.gov/idem/6556.htm>

IKE is concerned that the draft rule has been weakened from an earlier version. IDEM has received hundreds of comments from owners of outdoor wood boilers, arguing for no restrictions on their use. IKE will speak for the thousands of Indiana children with asthma in favor of common sense restrictions that govern how these devices operate. Please plan to attend the June 2 Air Pollution Control Board hearing at Columbus East High School to support restrictions to protect Indiana's children and those with respiratory illnesses.

## Mercury Monitoring

IKE and several other organizations signed a letter to IDEM Commissioner Thomas Easterly in March, expressing con-

cern that IDEM had shut down its mercury monitoring of Indiana waterways and precipitation. In a response dated April 12, Commissioner Easterly said exposure to mercury is a concern, but mercury in Indiana rainfall may come from hundreds or thousands of miles away. He also noted that the program is not federally required and receives no national funding. The commissioner said he has called for the development of a long-term mercury monitoring program at the national level. You can read IKE's letter and the commissioner's response on our website. IKE will continue to advocate that IDEM or U.S. EPA find ways to resume mercury monitoring.

## IKE Reports on Environmental Risks in Martindale Brightwood

IKE has released environmental profiles of the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood under our U.S. EPA-funded partnership with the Martindale Brightwood Environmental Justice Collaborative. Our contractor, IWM Consulting Group Inc., found:

- According to the Marion County Health Department, the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood – when compared to Marion County as a whole – has higher rates of lead poisoning in children and higher rates of hospitalization for diabetes, asthma, bronchitis & other respiratory diseases.
- Eight to nine percent of blood tests of children conducted in the neighborhood show elevated blood-lead levels, which can lower a child's attention span, IQ, and reading scores.
- Benzene and other air toxins have been found in Martindale Brightwood at unhealthy levels above the EPA cancer benchmark.
- Levels of fine particles in the air have fallen over time and now meet current particulate matter standards, but the outdoor air likely won't meet new federal standards designed to protect public health.
- The Martindale Brightwood neighborhood has 58 commercial or industrial properties that are abandoned or underutilized and 84 additional sites are a concern. Thirteen brownfield properties have been cleaned up or redeveloped.
- Martindale Brightwood represents less than 1 percent of the land area in Marion County, yet accounts for 12-13 percent of all illegal dumping service requests for the county.

You can read the reports on IKE's website: <http://www.ikeycoalition.org/CARE/index.htm>



## Info, Research & Studies

Bed bugs are a growing problem in the United States. EPA's [new bed bug Web page](#) provides information on safe bed bug controls & more.

A [new study](#) by American and Canadian researchers links pesticide exposure to ADHD in children. Organophosphates were the focus of this study. Advice: Buy or grow organic vegetables or carefully wash fruits and vegetables before serving to kids.

More than half of the students tested in Detroit Public Schools have a history of lead poisoning, which affects brain function for life, according to [data compiled by city health and education officials](#). The data also show a link between higher lead levels and poor academic performance. About 60% of DPS students who performed below their grade level on 2008 standardized tests had elevated lead levels.

The prevalence of chronic health conditions among children in the U.S. doubled between 1994 and 2006, according to a [study](#) published in the February 17 issue of JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association.

U.S. EPA is making it easier to find chemical information online. A [new database](#) has toxicity results on hundreds of chemicals. Find it at <http://actor.epa.gov/toxrefdb>

Healthy school environments can reduce absenteeism, improve test scores and improve teacher retention rates. The latest scientific evidence documents how indoor air quality influences student and staff health and performance. Visit EPA's Indoor Air Quality [website](#) for more information ([http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student\\_performance/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student_performance/index.html)).

Keep track of these issues and other news about children's environmental health on Facebook (Improving Kids' Environment) or following us on Twitter (@ikecoalition.org).

## New address for IKE

IKE has moved to a new office near the Monon Trail on the Indianapolis northside. Our new address is 1111 E. 54th Street, Ste. 212, Indianapolis, IN 46220. The new location offers more space and the opportunity to expand our programs and our staff to meet the environmental health needs of Indiana's children.

## LEAD

### National campaign on lead poisoning launched

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning has launched a national lead awareness campaign with the U.S. EPA, HUD and the Ad Council in an effort to protect children and families. View the campaign on-line and visit [www.LeadFreeKids.org](http://www.LeadFreeKids.org) to learn more.

### EPA's Lead-Safe Renovation Rule Goes into Effect

U.S. EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule went into effect on April 22, 2010. Contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. There is a lot of confusion out there about who must be certified and what the new rules require. IKE is working with others to answer questions and educate homeowners and contractors. You can find information and a list of certified firms near you at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>. However this site does not tell you which employees have certification – only the certified firms. Make sure you ask for documentation that a certified renovator is working on your project.

## PESTICIDES

### Pesticide Board Moves Forward with School Rule-making

On May 6, the Indiana Pesticide Review Board voted unanimously to move ahead with rules that would govern pesticide use in Indiana schools. A notice of rule-making was published on May 19 and will be followed by a draft rule



later this summer. The purpose of the rule is to ensure that:

- (1) Pesticides are used only by a certified applicator or an individual operating under the direct supervision of the certified applicator.
- (2) Pesticides are not used when children are in the pesticide application area.
- (3) Pesticides are stored in locked storage areas.
- (4) Except for immediate health threat situations, school corporations provide advance notice of pesticide applications to school parents, guardians, and staff on a notification registry.
- (5) School corporations keep records of pesticide applications.
- (6) Pesticides with lowest hazards to children are used whenever practical and effective.

This rule will be a major step forward in protecting Indiana school children from unnecessary exposure to pesticides and providing incentives for integrated pest management. Thanks to the members of the Pesticide Review Board for their support for moving ahead into rule-making.

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## Medical Society Encouraged to Promote IPM in Schools

Thanks to IKE Board Member Dr. John Ellis, president of the Indianapolis Medical Society, for using his April president's message to promote integrated pest management in schools. As Dr. Ellis noted, there are serious health effects of 48 pesticides commonly used in schools. Twenty-two are probable or possible carcinogens, 26 have been shown to cause reproductive effects, 31 damage the nervous system, 31 injure the liver or kidney, 41 are sensitizers or irritants, and 16 can cause birth defects. Dr. Ellis urged his colleagues to encourage their local schools to implement integrated pest management, and to contact IKE for assistance.

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## Bloomington Schools Handle Bed Bugs Without Pesticides

Kudos to Monroe County Community Schools and Arlington Heights Elementary for the proactive and open approach used to deal with bed bugs found on two students. Under the school's integrated pest management policy, if bedbugs are found, students are provided a change of clothes and the infested clothes are washed by the school district at lethally high temperatures

for the bugs, then returned to the students the following day. Further steps, if needed, could include high-heat steam applications and treatment with "diatomaceous earth" powder. MCC-SC planning director John Carter said the district would likely try to avoid pesticides and, if using them, would do so only on a limited and low-level basis.

On a related note, IKE congratulates Jerry Jochim for his recognition plaque from the U.S. EPA for his outstanding school IPM work in the Monroe County Community School district. Jerry has been a strong supporter of integrated pest management in Indiana schools. Congratulations to Jerry as he heads into retirement, and thanks for his many years of hard work on behalf of Indiana's children. Jerry is shown above with U.S. EPA's Meonii Bristol (left) and IKE Board member Marc Lame (right).



## WATER

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## EPA: Indiana's Anti-Degradation Rules Too Soft

Gitte Laasby of the Post-Tribune of Northwest Indiana reported on May 13 that U.S. EPA had raised objections with IDEM over its proposed rules governing when industries and cities can discharge more pollution into Indiana waterways. According to EPA, the proposed state rules would allow up to 2.5 times more pollution than federal law allows. "Based on our review, we believe several components of the draft rules appear to be inconsistent with applicable federal requirements and could result in EPA's disapproval if they are not revised or clarification is not provided," EPA said in a Jan. 29 letter to IDEM. According to Laasby, the letter raises four points that are "inconsistent" with federal law and five points that require additional documentation and data to be acceptable.



## Comings and Goings...

Congratulations to IKE founder Tom Neltner for his new job as project director of the Food Additives Campaign at Pew Charitable Trusts. We know he will do well in his new world.

IKE congratulates and welcomes Barbara Lucas and Margaret Rabe to the Indiana State Department of Health Asthma Program. Barbara is the new director of the asthma program and Margaret is the state's first asthma environmentalist. Both are working with other stakeholders to update the state's Asthma Plan and reduce the epidemic of asthma among Indiana children and adults.

IKE welcomes Joe D. Moore to our office this summer as a Teach for America Fellow. Joe is a Wabash College graduate who taught environmental science in Chicago for three years through Teach for America. Joe will be working at IKE for eight weeks beginning June 7, helping do research to strengthen our Healthy Schools programs, including anti-idling programs, integrated pest management and school indoor air quality. He can be reached at [schools@ikecoalition.org](mailto:schools@ikecoalition.org). Thanks to ISDH asthma program for making this fellowship possible.

## Upcoming Events

Wed., June 2	6 p.m.	IN Air Pollution Control Board Hearing on Outdoor Wood Boilers, Columbus East High School, Columbus, IN
Thurs., June 3	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Indiana IPM Schools Coalition Meeting, Pike Township Freshman Center (conference call line available)
Thurs., June 3	7 p.m.	Go Green Night with Indiana Fever
Friday, June 14	2 - 3:30 p.m.	Children's Coalition of Indiana Annual Meeting The United Way Building, 39th and N. Meridian St., Indpls.
July 21-22	All Day	Indiana School Health Network Conference, Marriott Indianapolis Downtown

## What You Can Do to Protect Kids from Environmental Threats

### Improving Kids' Environment

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- If you live in a home built before 1978, have your child and home tested for lead and learn about lead-safe renovation practices.
- Help reduce air pollution. Encourage schools to restrict vehicle idling in parking lots and to join the Smart Schools Don't Idle program.
- Reduce pesticide use. Encourage schools to adopt Integrated Pest Management practices, which use chemical pesticides as a last resort.
- Stay informed by becoming a supporter of Improving Kids' Environment at [www.ikecoalition.org](http://www.ikecoalition.org)