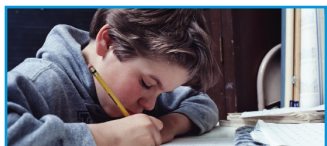


IMPROVING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT



Contact us: jperras@ikecoalition.org

MARCH 2010

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

IKE Receives \$50,000 Grant to Help Low-income Families Remediate Lead

At least 25 Marion County families will receive assistance removing lead hazards from their home under a \$50,000 grant from the [Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust](#) to Improving Kids' Environment. The grant was one of 21 awarded by the Trust earlier this month to Indiana nonprofit organizations.

IKE will use the grant to help low-income homeowners enter a Marion County Health Department program that reduces lead hazards in homes and apartments. Many low-income homeowners have been unable to participate in the federally funded program because they cannot afford the required matching funds, which can be up to \$2,000.

"These funds will allow us to help families whose children or grandchildren may be affected by lead poisoning, making their homes lead-safe," said Jodi Perras, IKE executive director. "We are grateful to the Trustees and staff for their support of IKE's programs to prevent lead poisoning."

"Since the Trust began its grant-making in 1998, it has awarded more than \$86 million to 413 Indiana nonprofit organizations. The Trust has continued to further the causes Nina Pulliam supported during her life. As Trustees, we are pleased to continue her legacy of helping people in need, protecting animals and nature, and enriching community life," said Frank E. Russell, Trustee chairman.

IDEM Shuts Down Mercury Monitors

IKE has learned that, due to state budget cuts, IDEM has discontinued its partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey for monitoring mercury deposition and

In This Issue

- [IDEM Shuts Down Mercury Monitors \(p. 1\)](#)
- [IKE Hires Jodi Perras as Executive Director \(p. 2\)](#)
- [Follow IKE on Twitter & Facebook \(p. 2\)](#)
- [General Assembly Does Not Act on Lead Program Authorization \(p. 3\)](#)
- [Lead-Safe Task Force Plans Retreat \(p. 4\)](#)
- [EPA Lead Safety Rules Go Into Effect Next Month \(p. 3\)](#)
- [State Developing New Asthma Plan \(p. 5\)](#)
- [Indiana to Develop Pesticide Rules for Waterways \(p. 5\)](#)
- [Pesticide Review Board Moving Forward with School Pesticide Rule \(p. 5\)](#)

mercury levels in Indiana waterways. Five precipitation monitoring stations, which have been measuring air deposition of mercury since 2000, were shut down in January. And 25 stream monitoring stations, in operation since 2004, recorded their last samples in December.

Indiana's monitors have consistently shown some of the highest deposition of mercury in the National Atmospheric Deposition Program, with the concentrations of mercury at Clifty Falls and the Indiana Dunes among the ten highest sites in the nation. Forty-one percent of all of the samples in 2004-2005 exceeded Indiana's water quality standard for mercury (12 ng/L). Losing the five deposition monitoring stations in Indiana will leave a significant gap in the national monitoring network, taking away information needed by

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Indiana and its neighbors. Indiana has a key position in the network because of its location along both Lake Michigan and the Ohio River.

IKE is concerned about the loss of monitoring, and will be working with others to urge IDEM Commissioner Thomas Easterly to restore mercury monitoring as soon as possible.

Nina Mason Pulliam Award Reception



IKE accepts its award from the NMPCT trustees. Bottom row, from left, Nancy M. Russell, Frank E. Russell, and Carol Peden Schilling. Top row, from left, Karla Johnson of the Marion County Health Department, IKE Board president Dr. Indra Frank, and IKE Executive Director Jodi Perras.

IKE Hires Jodi Perras as Executive Director

Jodi Perras has been chosen to lead Improving Kids' Environment as the non-profit celebrates its 10th anniversary protecting children from lead poisoning, air pollution, raw sewage overflows and other environmental threats.

Ms. Perras, who started her new duties January 28, has served as a deputy commissioner at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and a deputy director in the Indianapolis Department of Public Works. As a small business owner, she also helped cities throughout the Midwest comply with requirements to reduce raw sewage overflows into rivers and streams.

She began her career as a reporter for the Associated Press in Indianapolis, where she covered the environment, health and politics. Ms. Perras has a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Butler University. Read the full press release under IKE News on our [Web site](#).

Indianapolis Star Takes a Stand for Improving Kids' Environment

Jodi Perras and IKE board members Dr. Indra Frank, Dr. Stephen Jay and Dr. John Ellis visited the Indianapolis Star Editorial Board on Feb. 24 to talk about the need to address environmental threats so kids can succeed in school. Here are portions of the Star's [Feb. 25 editorial, For Safer, Smarter Children](#):

"Of the long list of challenges to adequate education, plenty of discussion is given to factors such as funding, curriculum, discipline, personnel and poverty. It wouldn't hurt to pay more attention to what children take into their mouths and noses. Improving Kids' Environment, the Indiana advocacy organization led by medical and public health experts, notes that serious threats to bodies and minds lurk throughout the world local children inhabit."

Congratulations to The Star for its focus on our children's future, and for endorsing IKE's efforts to address environmental threats to growing minds and bodies.

Follow IKE on Twitter & Facebook

Are you on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)? You can now follow day-to-day IKE news and activities by becoming a fan on Facebook (Improving Kids' Environment) or following us on Twitter (@ikecoalition.org). We are posting items almost daily so you can keep track of children's environmental health issues. Recent news included a reminder about Poison Prevention Week, the latest CDC recalls of lead-contaminated items, a new study finding lead in some Indian spices, and a medicine take-back program sponsored by IDEM and Central Indiana Marsh pharmacies.



Former IKE Executive Director Janet McCabe on U.S. EPA Podcast

IKE's former executive director, Janet McCabe, is enjoying her new responsibilities as deputy assistant administrator at U.S. EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. She continues to work on children's health issues at the national level. Visit IKE's Web site (www.ikecoalition.org) to hear Janet in a U.S. EPA podcast, talking about air quality and children's health in her new role.

LEAD NEWS

General Assembly Does Not Act on Lead Program Authorization

The Indiana General Assembly adjourned without passing legislation to implement U.S. EPA's lead renovation, repair and painting (RRP) rule in Indiana. As a result, the new program will be run by the federal government for now, and contractor licensing fees will be sent to the U.S. Treasury instead of Indiana. EPA's rule [requires the use of lead-safe practices](#) and other actions aimed at preventing lead poisoning. Under the rule, beginning 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. Senate Bill 175 contained language authorizing the Indiana State Department of Health to adopt rules that would enable ISDH to administer the federal program. Final language was developed in conference committee but never received a final vote in the House. The bill apparently was caught up in last-minute maneuvering that caused a number of state agency bills to die in the House. ISDH hopes that similar legislation will be introduced during the 2011 Indiana General Assembly.

EPA Lead Safety Rules Go Into Effect Next Month

Contractors and others affected by the new EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule are scrambling to meet the training and certification requirements. Because many contractors waited until the last minute, many training classes are full until June. IKE wants to extend congratulations to [CEDIA](#), the Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association for developing an on-line training module accompanied by hands-on labs at locations across the country. CEDIA worked closely with Tom Neltner of the National Center for Healthy Housing to obtain U.S. EPA approval for the training. CEDIA is a trade association based in Indianapolis, representing 3,500 member companies who install custom home theater, audio, video and electronic systems.

On-Line Paint Retailer Training

On February 1, 2010, the Indiana State Department of Health, in collaboration with Improving Kids' Environment, Environmental Management Institute, CEDIA and the National Center for Healthy Housing, introduced the first on-line training for retailers selling paint and painting supplies. This unique training offers retailers an opportunity to educate their employees on the hazards of lead, the RRP rule and Indiana-specific regulations regarding lead. As of March 12, more than 200 paint retailers had been trained through the on-line training program. IKE congratulates Sherwin Williams for its efforts to educate staff, contractors and property managers about the new rules. According to ISDH, 80 percent of those taking the on-line training are Sherwin Williams employees. Sherwin Williams also has developed a [bulletin](#) for contractors and property managers to educate them about the requirements.

How Does EPA's New Rule Affect You?

Was your home built before 1978? If you hire someone to do renovation, repair or painting work that will disturb painted surfaces measuring six square feet or



more, the contractor is already required to give you a copy of an [EPA pamphlet](#) explaining the law. Beginning in April, you also should ask for the contractor's certification. There is no centralized list of certified contractors, which makes it difficult for homeowners and others wanting to hire a qualified firm. Also, IKE has learned that many contractors are waiting for EPA to send their certification paperwork.

On on-line discussion boards, contractors who want to comply say they're concerned they'll be priced out of the marketplace by contractors who don't follow the rules. Expect some complaints as this important rule is implemented by the federal government next month. That's another reason to pass legislation bringing certification into ISDH, which already handles lead certification, inspection and enforcement under state law. For more info on the federal rules, see the [EPA Web site](#).

Lead-Safe & Healthy Homes Task Force Is Planning Retreat

The Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Task Force, which has been the driving force behind many positive changes in Indiana lead poisoning prevention laws, is planning a day-long retreat on April 29 to set priorities for moving forward to make Indiana homes safer for families and children. If you'd like to be involved in the retreat or the task force's work, contact Jodi Perras at jperras@ikecoalition.org.

Court of Appeals Hears Lead Case

On Feb. 25, the Indiana Court of Appeals heard a Decatur County case involving lead poisoning allegations. [The case was heard at Wabash College](#) as part of the court's Appeals on Wheels program. Ben and Shona Erwin allege that their two-and-a-half year old son was exposed to lead-based paint, plaster, and other materials in their rented home. The child had blood-lead levels reaching almost 40 micrograms/liter, according to their attorney, Todd Barnes. Barnes said landlord Brenda Roe's defense was that she didn't know about the federal Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction

Act and didn't know there was lead in the rental unit. The trial court ruled in the landlord's favor. IKE will be watching this case and will report the decision from the Court of Appeals when released.

AIR & ASTHMA NEWS

U.S. Asthma Rates on the Rise

A new [government study](#) says asthma rates are on the rise across the nation. The overall rate of asthma is currently estimated to be 7.85 percent of the population, an increase of about 0.5 percent every three years. The study was authored by Dr. Teresa Ann Morrison, a medical officer in the Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, in Atlanta. Results of the study were presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology annual meeting, in New Orleans. IKE Supports Rules to Restrict Outdoor Wood Boilers

A June 2 hearing date is expected for IDEM's proposed rule restricting outdoor wood boilers (outdoor hydronic heaters). These wood-burning heaters are increasingly used by homeowners to heat their homes. Outdoor wood boilers, also known as "Outdoor Hydronic Heaters (OHH), are some of the most polluting and inefficient devices available to homeowners. Efficiency ranges from 28-55 percent, with most units operating in the 30-40 percent range. This is far lower than the efficiency of other types of wood-burning devices—for example woodstoves (which are 60-80 percent efficient). The proposed rules would restrict items that can be burned and require devices to meet emissions standards or extend their stack higher than the peak of any neighboring property's roof located within 150 feet. On our Web site, you can read [IKE's comment letter](#) suggesting improvements to the rule. If you can, plan to attend the June 2 Air Pollution Control Board hearing at Indiana Government Center South to support these necessary restrictions.



State Developing New Asthma Plan

The Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition (InJAC) is working with the State Department of Health to write the State's next five-year plan for combating asthma. IKE is involved in InJAC's Environmental Workgroup. The Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition (InJAC) is a voluntary network of people and organizations who work to reduce the burden of asthma on people living in Indiana. You can register for free membership at www.injac.org.

WATER NEWS

Indiana to Develop Pesticide Rules for Waterways

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided to let stand a year-old ruling requiring farmers to secure Clean Water Act permits for using pesticides to, over or near waterways. U.S. EPA is now developing a permitting system that Indiana will need to implement. IDEM will be working with the State Chemist and the Indiana Pesticide Review Board to develop rules and coordinate enforcement in Indiana.

Water Infrastructure Costs Are Rising

As pointed out in the [New York Times](#) on March 14, cities across the country are asking for higher water and sewer rates to upgrade pipes that are reaching the end of their useful life or don't meet federal standards. Indiana is no exception, with many cities raising rates to meet mandates to reduce raw sewage overflows. In Indianapolis, Mayor Ballard has proposed selling the water and sewer utilities to natural gas utility Citizens Energy Group. IKE is concerned about the [city's plans](#) to use funds generated from the water and sewer deal to pay for road and sidewalk infrastructure. Funds are ultimately generated by water and sewer ratepayers, and should be spent on water and sewer improvements.

Purdue Study Finds Bacteria-control Substance Toxic to Fish

Nanosilver is becoming a popular additive used to kill bacteria in odor-control clothing, countertops, cutting boards and detergents. But a new [Purdue University study](#) shows that nanosilver is toxic to fish. Tested on fathead minnows – an organism often used to test the effects of toxicity on aquatic life -- nanosilver suspended in solution proved toxic and even lethal to the minnows. Wastewater treatment operators are also worried about nanosilver and its impact on the [wastewater treatment process](#). Several groups have petitioned U.S. EPA to regulate nanosilver as a pesticide. IKE's advice: don't use nanosilver products in your home.

PESTICIDE NEWS

Pesticide Review Board Moving Forward with School Pesticide Rule

The Indiana Pesticide Review Board is discussing rules that would require anyone applying pesticides at a school be a licensed applicator or under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator. The draft rules are expected to enter the formal rule-making process later this year. The proposed rule is intended to minimize the potential for pesticide exposure to children at schools by ensuring the following:

- (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 present.
- (3) Pesticides are stored in locked storage areas.
- (4) Except for emergency situations school corporations provide advance notice of pesticide applications to parents or guardians on a notification registry.
- (5) School corporations keep records of pesticide application.

You can review the [draft rule here](#) and provide comments to Dave Scott: scottde@purdue.edu.



Utah Girls' Death Linked to Pesticide

From Beyond Pesticides Daily News Blog ([Feb. 11](#)): Investigators are tying the deaths of 4-year and 15-month old sisters in Layton, Utah to a pesticide that was used to kill voles, small burrowing rodents, in their family's front yard. Rebecca and Rachel Toone died after the family was hospitalized with flu-like symptoms then discharged. The girls went back to the hospital when they fell ill again after returning home. Investigators say the chemical may have wafted into the family's home after an exterminator dropped Fumitoxin, aluminum phosphide, pellets in burrow holes in the lawn. Upon exposure to moisture in the air, the pellets immediately decompose to phosphine gas. Current label directions allow their application within 15 feet of a home.

OTHER NEWS

Green Congregations Workshop June 5 at CTS

If you're interested in starting a green ministry at your congregation, don't miss the Indianapolis Green Congregations Workshop on June 5 at Christian Theological Seminary. This day-long workshop will feature Bloomington's Scott Russell Sanders, author of *A Conservationist Manifesto*, and breakout sessions on a variety of topics. A flyer, agenda and registration information are available on [IKE's Web site](#).

Visit IKE at These Upcoming Community Events

Sat., April 17	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Children's Museum Earth Week Kickoff , Indianapolis
Sun., April 18	1 - 4 p.m.	Z'Greenfest in Zionsville
Sun., April 18	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Evansville Earth Event at Mesker Park Zoo
Thu., April 22	Noon - 5 p.m.	Ball State Earth Day, Muncie
Sat., April 24	11 - 4 p.m.	Earth Day Indiana , White River State Park
Sun., April 25	8-noon	March of Dimes' March for Babies , White River State Park

What You Can Do to Protect Kids from Environmental Threats

Improving Kids' Environment

3951 N. Meridian St. Ste. 160
Indianapolis IN 46208
317-677-4760

- 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