Hello Hoosier Environmental!

Welcome to the May edition of the Improving Kids’ Environment newsletter. This month you will find information on:

- Asthma Awareness Month
- money for replacing lead water lines
- upcoming events

Thank you for all you do to help Hoosier children!

May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month

Since the spring season can be particularly harsh for people with asthma and allergies, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation designated May as [National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month](https://www.aanmi.org/awareness-month/index.php) in 1984. The purpose is to help educate people with and without allergies and asthma about the symptoms as well as best practices to help people suffering from allergies and asthma. Since then, there have been two other initiatives to bring awareness to respiratory health during the month of May: air quality awareness week May 1 - 5, promoted by the EPA and their AirNow Partners, and World Asthma Day May 2 promoted by the [Global Initiative for Asthma](https://www.gina.nhlbi.nih.gov/). The [Allergy and Asthma Network](https://www.allergyandasthma.org/) created a list of actions to celebrate asthma awareness month,
including tips on creating an asthma friendly environment, links to webinars, and yoga for benefiting asthma symptoms. As you contemplate actions to take for Asthma Awareness Month, consider the American Lung Association's Asthma Basics Training and resources for asthma policy and advocacy, or consider taking steps that will help make the air cleaner for everyone.

EPA Announces Funding for Water Infrastructure Updates

On April 4th, 2023 the EPA announced over $6.5 billion for states, Tribes, and territories for essential drinking water infrastructure upgrades across the nation through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This announcement is an update to previous water infrastructure funding, as determined by the EPA's 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment.

The goal of this funding is to remove and replace 100% of lead service lines (LSL) in the country. LSL— underground pipes that connect residences to municipal water—have long been identified as the main contributor of lead in drinking water. The update will provide more funding to areas with higher numbers of LSL, like the Midwest. Recent cases like Benton Harbor, MI and Rockford, IL have brought attention to the Midwest's failing water infrastructure. And while lead in drinking water is not the main cause of lead poisoning, it still presents a risk for Hoosier children.

Recently, Indiana has been doing a lot of work to ensure its drinking water is safe. In 2021, Indiana was one of only 10 states to have an estimate of the number of LSL throughout the state. Thanks to that data, the EPA estimates there are 265,400 LSL in Indiana. Cities like Indianapolis and South Bend are already working in their community to identify and provide resources to address LSL. In addition, Indiana recently passed House Enrolled Act 1138, which requires daycares and preschools to test their drinking water for lead.

EPA's announcement to address aging water infrastructure is a critical step towards ensuring Hoosiers have access to safe and clean drinking water. However, Indiana still has a long way to go in identifying all the LSL in the state. Public water systems in Indiana must submit their inventory to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management by Oct. 16, 2024.

Concerned about lead in your drinking water? Visit the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to learn what steps you can take to live lead safe.
Events and Engagement

- Free Webinar, How to Make a House or Apartment Allergy & Asthma Friendly on May 25, 2023 at 4:00pm EDT.

- Applications are open for CTSI's Trailblazer Grants which provide up to $25,000 over 2 years to support community-engaged research that has the potential to improve health equity in Indiana. Due by June 1.

- Indiana School Health Network Conference The theme of this year's conference is “School Health: Connecting the Pieces”. In person, June 14th and 15th. The deadline to register is June 7th.

- The Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition (InJAC) develops and promotes Indiana's statewide strategic plan, in collaboration with stakeholders. Meetings are every other month. The next is June 8, 10:30 - noon EDT on zoom.

HEC’s Event Calendar

The Hoosier Environmental Council also offers a newsletter that discusses a broad range of environmental issues specific to Indiana. To sign-up, click here.

Hoosier Environmental Council relies on partners like you to do this important work.

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