

Bulletin

Issue 9 • Fall 2023

for Educators

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) mission is to protect the environment and human health. IDEM ensures Indiana's land is safe to live on, air is safe to breathe, and water is safe to drink. IDEM's environmental educator is a resource for you!

Featured Program



Composting with Worms in the Classroom

As students get back into the swing of things in the classrooms, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) encourages educators to schedule a composting program! Students will learn about worms, how red worms help turn food scraps into compost, and simple ways they can divert the amount of trash sent to landfills. Teachers can request their own small worm compost bin for the classroom, along with maintenance instructions, while supplies last.

Having a classroom compost bin can serve multiple purposes. It can be used as an ongoing instructional tool; the

compost generated from the bin can be used to increase the soil health of classroom plants or school gardens; and it can instill an appreciation of even earth's smallest creatures in students. These bins are also great for educators because they can be used for multiple years and multiple classrooms. To schedule a composting program for your classroom, email education@idem.IN.gov.

In This Issue:

Featured Program:
Composting with Worms in the Classroom

Topics to Share:
America Recycles Day is November 15, 2023

Classroom Presentations:
Classroom and Virtual Presentations

Craft Corner:
Monarch Butterfly Craft

Resources:
Community Recycling Grant Program

Upcoming Events You Can Find Us At:

2024 Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (HASTI) Conference
February 19–20, 2024

Earth Day Indiana Festival
June 2024

Topics to Share

American Recycles Day is November 15, 2023

IDEM celebrates America Recycles Day to highlight the importance of recycling and commit to reducing waste. We should all strive to make recycling an everyday habit. Schedule a classroom recycling program to teach students the importance of recycling by sending an email to education@idem.IN.gov.



Classroom Presentations

IDEM Offering Classroom and Virtual Earth Day Webinars

IDEM offers presentations on air, land, water, and recycling to elementary school classrooms. The hands-on presentations are 30-45 minutes and offer students an opportunity to learn how different environmental systems work.

For program descriptions check out our [classroom presentation topics page!](#)

To request a presentation, contact IDEM's Environmental Educator at education@idem.IN.gov.



Craft Corner

Monarch Butterfly

Every fall Monarch butterflies migrate from east of the Rockies to central Mexico. They travel much farther than any other butterfly, up to 3,000 miles. To learn more about Monarch butterflies, their amazing migration, and how you can participate in tracking their migration visit monarchwatch.org.



Materials Needed:

- 1 coffee filter
- Water
- Washable orange and black markers
- Pipe cleaner
- Clothespin

How to Make a Migrating Monarch Butterfly

1. Flatten out the coffee filter.
2. Color your coffee filter with washable orange and black markers.
3. Lightly spray water on coffee filter. You can use a spray bottle, eye dropper, or small measuring spoon.
4. Place coffee filter on paper towel to dry.
5. Cut a pipe cleaner in half, fold into a "V" for antenna.
6. Once dry, scrunch the coffee filter in the middle, add antenna, and slide the coffee filter and antenna into clothespin.

Resources

High School Receives Funding from IDEM's Community Recycling Grant Program

Lawrenceburg High School, in Dearborn County, was awarded \$12,779 through IDEM's Community Recycling Grant Program to create a plastic up-cycling program. This funding will be allocated towards equipment and supplies. As part of this program, students will replace traditional lumber in the wood shop with re-purposed plastic materials. The classroom program focuses on STEM activities, waste reduction, and an introduction to process improvements in plastic panel manufacturing.

Each year, this grant provides funding for recycling projects that focus on education and promotion of recycling, processing of recyclable materials, waste reduction, or composting. Schools, counties, municipalities, solid waste management districts, and nonprofit organizations, in Indiana, are eligible to submit a Community Recycling Grant application. Consider applying in 2024!

For eligibility, funding, and match requirements, visit recycle.IN.gov.

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Indiana Department of Environmental Management

