

Bulletin

Issue 6 • Fall 2021

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

Aluminum — A Recycling Story



The Indiana Department of Environment Management's (IDEM) new children's book explores what happens to aluminum cans after they have been opened. The story follows an aluminum can named Lu Aluminum who tells the story of what happens to him and his friends if they are placed in a trash can or a recycle bin. To learn more about the adventures of Lu Aluminum and friends, check out the story [online!](#)

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Upcoming Events You Can Find Us At:

**2021 Hoosier Association
of Science Teachers, Inc.
(HASTI) Conference:**
February 14–15, 2022

**IDEM Earth Day School
Presentations:**
April 2022

Topics to Share

[The Indy Wildlife Watch – Citizen Researchers Needed!](#)

The Indy Wildlife Watch has set up motion activated cameras to capture images of mammals in and around the city. When an animal moves near a camera, a photo is taken. This system is a simple and non-invasive way to research animals, but it means there are a lot of photos that need to be reviewed. This is where citizen research plays an important role, and you don't need a background in science to help. *All you need is a computer to review photos and identify or "tag" the animal in the photo.*



Classroom Presentations

Looking for an in-person or virtual presentation for your class?



IDEM offers presentations on air, land, water, and recycling. 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](#).

Craft Corner

Pressing Leaves

Leaves have different types of chemicals in them that determine their pigment and coloring. One of those chemicals is called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll allows plants to absorb and use light, giving leaves their green color. In the fall, when day light becomes shorter, it signals the leaf to prepare for winter and to stop making chlorophyll. Once this happens, the green color starts to fade and the reds, oranges, and yellows become visible. A great way to identify trees is to collect and press their leaves. To do that you need the following:

- Heavy book
- Wax paper or newspaper
- Leaves

Process:

- Select leaves of various colors
- Sandwich the leaves between sheets of wax paper or newspaper

Using wax paper or newspaper will help prevent the leaves from staining the pages of your book.

- Place the sandwich leaves inside a heavy book
- Allow two weeks for leaves to completely dry



Resources



[Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study](#)

The Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study provides perspective for the current solid waste and recycling infrastructure in Indiana. The report examines the following:

- [Current waste and recycling infrastructure](#)
- [Indiana's Recycling Economic Impact](#)
- [The recycling industry](#) • [Recycling manufacturers](#)

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Indiana Department of
Environmental Management