



2017 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

Organizations from across the state of Indiana submitted their top ideas for the 20th annual Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. Three organizations were selected and recognized by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "These awards recognize Hoosier organizations that employ innovation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and environmental stewardship," said Bruno Pigott, IDEM Commissioner. "We are excited to share these best practices with other organizations across the Hoosier state."

The 2017 award recipients are:

- **Hansen Park Restoration Project – Michigan City High School Wolves Environmental Restoration Team, Michigan City, IN** – The Michigan City High School Wolves Environmental Restoration Team launched the Hansen Park Restoration Project during the 2016-17 school year. The project focused on restoring and monitoring riparian areas of the park along Trail Creek, a tributary of Lake Michigan. The project worked to remove invasive plant species, monitored water quality and invasive species, established a native plant buffer, and conducted GIS mapping. The park is used for educational field trips and teaches watershed best management practices.



Representatives of Michigan City High School received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for their school's Hansen Park Restoration Project on January 31, 2018.

Pictured (left-to-right): Bob Lugar, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Program Support, IDEM; Bruno Pigott, Commissioner, IDEM; Nicole Messacar, Team Co-Founder and Education Coordinator, LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District, and her children Ethan and Clara; Stephanie Dege, Team Co-Founder and Biology Teacher, Michigan City High School; Andy Jasicki, Team Member and Biology Teacher, Michigan City High School; and Julia Wickard, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Program Support, IDEM.

- **Conversion to Natural Refrigerants – Roche Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN** – Roche Diagnostics converted 98 percent of its halogenated hydrocarbon refrigeration systems to natural refrigerant systems from 2002 to 2016. Roche originally had 6,451 kg of halogenated hydrocarbon refrigerants and reduced it to 161 kg in the last 14 years. This project protects the environment by removing substances that affect ozone in our atmosphere. The innovative nature of this project is evident because the refrigerator, cooler and freezer options were not available on the market when the process began in 2002. Roche Diagnostics partnered with manufacturers to design and develop unique and environmentally safe refrigeration applications. This new energy efficient technology is now a part of the Roche product line.



Roche Diagnostics-Indianapolis staff received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for the company's Conversion to Natural Refrigerants project on January 31, 2018. Pictured (left-to-right): Bob Lugar, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Program Support, IDEM; Bruno Pigott, Commissioner, IDEM; Krista McKenna, Environmental Professional, Roche Diagnostics-Indianapolis; Jennifer Wolfram, Vice President, Security, Safety, Health and Environmental and Site Operations, Roche Diagnostics-Indianapolis; and Julia Wickard, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Program Support, IDEM.

- **Useful to Usable Project – Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN** – The Useful to Usable project was launched in 2011 to improve the usability and acceptance of stakeholder-driven, applied climate research information for agricultural production in Indiana and the Midwest. The six year project developed climate-based decision support tools which assisted farmers and agricultural advisors regarding planning, purchasing, and marketing decisions. This online supported tool assisted with decisions on over 15.5 million acres across the Midwest.



Purdue University staff received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for their Useful to Usable project on January 31, 2018. Pictured (left-to-right): Bob Lugar, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Program Support, IDEM; Dr. Shawn Donkin, Interim Associate Dean for Research, College of Agriculture, Purdue University-West Lafayette; Melissa Widhalm, Operations Manager, Purdue Climate Change Research Center, Purdue University-West Lafayette; and Julia Wickard, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Program Support, IDEM.

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence is open to Indiana citizens, businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools, universities, or government agencies that implement innovative, sustainable, and exemplary programs or projects that positively impact Indiana's environment and demonstrate measurable environmental, economic, and social benefits.

About IDEM

IDEM (www.idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and our environment.