



Iowa Chapter Air Quality Policy Initiatives

The Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club supports regulations that:

1. Increase the number of hazardous air pollutant monitors in the state.
2. Reduce excess idling of diesel engines.
3. Support complete streets, including bike paths and sidewalks, which would reduce use of vehicles.
4. Support smart growth and smart planning principles that reduce sprawl and the accompanying additional roads and highways.
5. Support the use of public transportation, such as buses and rail, that utilize transportation fuels more efficiently.
6. Restrict burning of trash, yard waste, leaves.
7. Restrict outdoor wood boilers.
8. Increased fish testing by DNR to determine mercury contamination in Iowa's rivers and streams. When coal is burned mercury becomes airborne. The mercury settles into the water where it forms methylmercury, a toxic chemical which collects in the muscle tissue of fish and any animal or human that eats the fish. The major source for the airborne mercury is from burning coal.
9. Make the polluter pay for DNR staff who reviews permits to emit pollutants into the air. The Iowa DNR issues Title V permits to industries that emit regulated air pollutants. The permit-requestors pay a fee to support the DNR staff involved in reviewing the permit requests. The Iowa Chapter supports fees that allow the air quality bureau to adequately staff the permit-reviewing operation at the Iowa DNR.
10. Promptly implement the rules and regulations required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
11. Reduce air emissions from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs):
 - Iowa State University Extension compiled a list of practices to reduce ammonia emissions. The Iowa Chapter supports having the Extension staff review the document "Practices to Reduce



Ammonia Emissions from Livestock Operations” and update it, if new techniques for reducing ammonia have become available.

- No further studies are required to measure odor formed by CAFOs. The Iowa Chapter does not support delaying any regulations related to ammonia and odor.
- The Chapter supports regulating ammonia not to exceed 500 parts per billion (ppb) for a one-hour time-weighted average (TWA), measured at the property line; that concentration at a residence or public use area should not exceed 150 ppb for a one-hour TWA; and that each CAFO be allowed up to seven days each calendar year when it is allowed to exceed the concentration for ammonia. These recommendations are based on the “Iowa Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Air Quality Study Final Report,” written by Iowa State University and the University of Iowa Study Group in February 2002.
- The Iowa Chapter supports regulating hydrogen sulfide to not exceed 70 ppb for a one-hour TWA, measured at the property line; that concentration at a residence or public use area should not exceed 15 ppb for a one-hour TWA; and that each CAFO be allowed up to seven days each calendar year when it is allowed to exceed the concentration for hydrogen sulfide. These recommendations are based on the “Iowa Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Air Quality Study Final Report,” written by Iowa State University and the University of Iowa Study Group in February 2002.
- The Chapter supports requiring CAFO owners to alert within 48 hours any resident who lives within one mile of the CAFO, the spread fields or the roads used to haul manure to the spread fields that there will be movement of manure from the production area to the spread fields.
- Any CAFO over 500 animal units should be required to install a monitor for ammonia and fine particulate matter.
- Any CAFO that exceeds the level of ammonia that is protective of human health must implement techniques that will lower the level of ammonia.
- DNR budgeting funds necessary to perform enforcements. The DNR should force a CAFO owner to reduce the number of animals being raised in the CAFO if the CAFO operator is not able to adequately address pollution issues.
- The Chapter supports local control of the siting of CAFOs and allowing the Boards of Supervisors and the local community to zone CAFOs as is done with other industries, commercial activities and housing.

