

door county environmental council



Photo by James Ingwersen

Our History. The Door County Environmental Council, Inc., informally known as "DCEC", was founded in 1969 and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1971. Even then, caring citizens could see looming threats to the county's waters, bays, wild shores, bluffs, sand dunes, woodlands, wetlands, farms, orchards and fields. Realizing that unrestrained commercial development and suburbanization would be disastrous for this beautiful section of the Niagara Escarpment, the group became an active force for preservation and protection.



Please Join Us. We welcome to our membership all lovers of Door County who stand strongly for conservation of that which makes us unique, and which once gone, can never be regained.

Our Major Objectives

- ❖ Protection of Door's natural area through effective land use measures, including zoning, other regulations and private stewardship.
- ❖ Maintenance of the basic components of our environment in Door County: clean air, surface water quality, groundwater quality, soil integrity.

Our Goals

- ❖ Participation in all possible local, county and state processes, including advisory committees, hearings, testimony, research, letters and lawsuits when all else fails. We unceasingly urge sound zoning and land use regulation.
- ❖ Education and inspiration (examples below). An informed and dedicated citizenry is needed, as local and state governments have proved unwilling to apply the necessary land use controls to prevent further ecological abuses.
- ❖ We host an annual program for the community with stimulating presentations given by conservation experts.
- ❖ We publish a quarterly newsletter detailing the most urgent concerns, that you receive with your membership in DCEC. Copies also are available on request.
- ❖ We sponsor and fund research studies and publish the results, which we distribute to officials and to the public.
- ❖ We annually recognize outstanding leaders in the County who are making an impact with their conservation efforts with our "Conservation Citizen of the Year" award.
- ❖ Our Earth Day student essay contest enjoys wide participation, with cash prizes given.
- ❖ Our Niagara Escarpment teaching aid, written by Bev Njaa, illustrated by Flora Langlois, showing Door County's geological history since the Silurian age, is currently available at many locations in the county.
- ❖ Our Renewable Energy Task Force has produced a sub-committee, Renewable Wind Energy, promoting wind generation in Door County.



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Photo by Liz Clark

DCEC Efforts and Accomplishments

- ❖ Our legal action against the County in 1970s (settled out of court) provided that condominiums could not be built in agricultural zoning districts, an early and significant limitation to the proliferation of condos.
- ❖ Our contract with the late Dr. James Zimmerman, Madison ecologist, led to the detailed mapping of all sensitive areas in the County and the resultant Zimmerman Resource Maps which are an effective tool in resource education and appreciation.
- ❖ In 1987, DCEC founded the Door County Land Trust, Inc, now a separate organization working with private land owners to preserve land. DCLT is a fast-growing and powerful tool for critical land area protection and citizen support.
- ❖ We successfully worked to secure federal listing of Hines Emerald Dragonfly as an endangered species. DCEC was one of the petitioners for state and federal endangered status for the Dwarf Lake Iris.
- ❖ We co-researched and jointly published a Cost of Services Study with The Land Trust which documents the fact that developed land costs local communities more for services than does open land and farmlands. This is an important tool for responsible planning and sustainable land use practices.
- ❖ DCEC contracted with Stephen John to complete a homeowner information manual describing the available alternatives for home wastewater treatment facilities. "Door County Citizens' Guide to Small Wastewater Systems" is available free to all homeowners.
- ❖ DCEC was the primary force in an unsuccessful effort to change the Highway 57 route in the town of Union, which would have saved the Pineries from destruction and shortened the route by one mile. The impact on this small town is now being realized as the project continues through the finest pine woodlands in Southern Door County.
- ❖ DCEC is continuing the battle to bring large developments back into the public hearing process. The Site Plan Review procedure, which has replaced public hearings in many cases, effectively denies affected citizens any meaningful voice in determining actual impact of planned developments. We continue to demand that public rights be re-instated with full hearings on the major developments planned for our County.

For more information on these and other matters, we invite you to call or write. See access information, left, on membership form.

PLEASE JOIN US! THE DOOR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Many more people like you must join us to truly preserve our unique natural resources.
We need strength in members and dollars!

Please continue my membership through 2006
Individual Membership \$25
Family Membership \$35
Student/Limited Income \$15
My special contribution of \$_____ is enclosed.

Other donor categories available upon request. DCEC is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Dues and donations are tax deductible as provided by law.
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