



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Zionsville honored as an IDEM Clean Community Program

The Town of Zionsville has been awarded Silver Status with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) Clean Communities Program. This program recognizes and rewards Indiana communities for proactively implementing projects that address environmental and health issues.

Other pilot communities that were honored include Beech Grove, Brown County, Fishers and Richmond (Silver Status) and Merrillville (Bronze Status).

The Silver Status is achieved by showing positive environmental history, adopting a sustainability resolution or ordinance, creating a Clean Team (a small group of municipality staff, residents and local parties), attending the Clean Annual Meeting, posting information on the website, implementing best practices and measuring and reporting on performance metrics.

The Town of Zionsville worked with a local Clean Team and chose projects that promote sustainability and green initiatives. Completed projects include: a greenhouse gas inventory, a Climate Action Plan, community gardens, recycling and composting at various parks, residential curbside composting, a tree canopy assessment and a tree planting plan. The Town also received several designations: SolSmart Bronze designation, Tree City USA award (22 years in a row) and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle.

This year the Town is developing a compost collection site on Town-owned property. The Department of Public Works offers free, seasonal collection of leaves, brush and limbs. The plan is to use the site to place green material collected from these seasonal services and create nutrient-dense composted soil.

In June of 2021, Zionsville joined five other communities (Beech Grove, Brown County, Fishers, Merrillville and Richmond) to be part of IDEM's Clean Community Challenge pilot program. The Clean Community Challenge (now called the Clean Community Program) is a voluntary program that recognizes Indiana's cities and towns that take proactive, positive environmental actions.

The Clean Community Program is expected to open state-wide this year. Communities will progress through the levels of membership from Bronze, Silver and Gold at their own pace. For more information about the program, visit [on.IN.gov/cleancommunity](http://on.IN.gov/cleancommunity).

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