



# THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

Advocacy. Education. Relationships. Networking.



## Mission



**Advocate members' interests** before governmental agencies, primarily the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Pollution Control Board as they promulgate, administer, and implement environmental laws, regulations and policies.



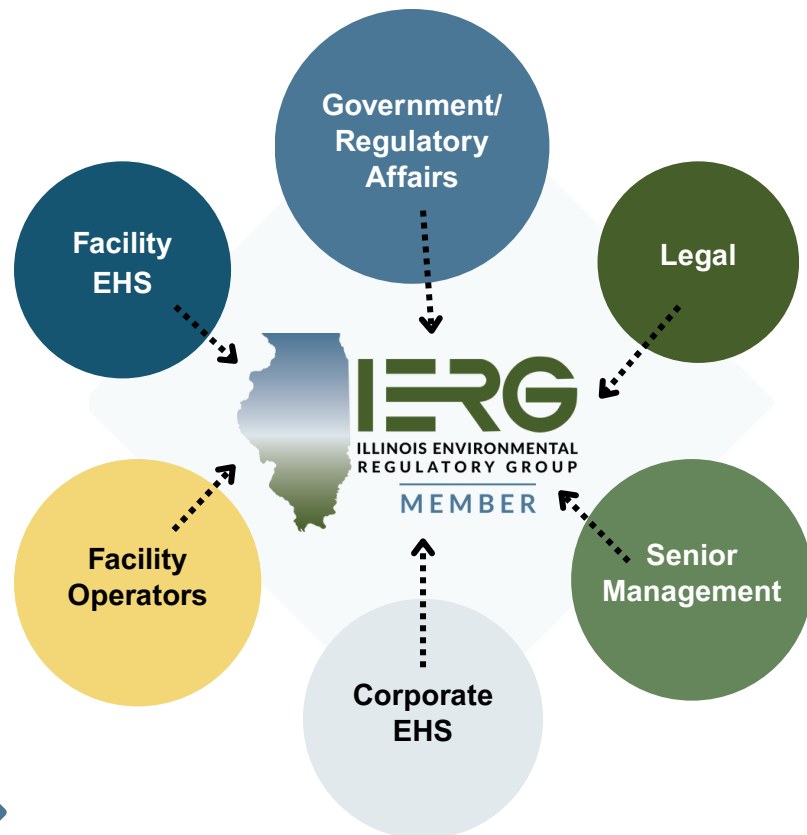
**Serve as the voice of business** seeking economically reasonable solutions to Illinois' environmental challenges.



**Provide accurate and technically sound input** early in the regulatory development processes to promote favorable outcomes for Illinois' business community.

## Membership Value

- **Save time and money** on routine regulatory tracking and engagement.
- **Reduce legal and lobbying costs** through proactive monitoring and representation.
- **Free up your staff** by handling agency interactions and legislative updates.



**IERG Membership** gives you more **time** to plan for future requirements. It provides **knowledge** of what's ahead that may affect your business. IERG **represents** your company by understanding your needs and looking out for your interests. They are in the room and at the table providing **presence** at every opportunity. IERG is your **resource** in providing expertise and has the relationships to provide you with answers.



Join now.

[ierg.org](http://ierg.org)



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## Education

- Seminars
- Online learning – webinars
- Notification of all relevant environmental changes or updates
- Access to member-only online portal
- Meet with agency staff

## Relationships

- Access to experts and regulators
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Pollution Control Board
- Governor's Office
- Elected officials

## Networking

- Annual reception
- Quarterly meetings-hybrid
- Interact and learn from peers

## Advocacy

- Voice of business on environmental issues
- Partner with State on environmental policies
- Advocate on behalf of Members at the Statehouse
- Coordinate with business groups to negotiate and draft major environmental laws
- Comment on issues of importance



## 100+ Years of Cumulative Experience

IERG's Staff are experts in the environmental and permitting arena with experience in technical and regulatory development. Staff are skilled at facilitating dialogs and navigating various political landscapes. IERG's activities are member-driven and encompass projects within air, water, land, waste, climate and environmental justice.

Membership in IERG saves you money because we address problems before they gain a foot-hold as policy, guidance or regulation. And, IERG will anonymously raise company-specific issues with decision-makers to gauge their reaction before it is necessary for an individual company to commit to a more expensive course of action.

IERG adds to your bottom line, keeping you informed and giving you the lead-time needed to plan for regulatory change rather than react to it. **Think of IERG as a way to add the capabilities of another staff person for only a small fraction of the expense!**



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## From the director's desk...

Many of our members have experienced one or many benefits of IERG membership:

IERG's **dedicated staff** focuses solely on environmental issues at an unmatched level of depth and detail. In its 40 years, IERG has positioned itself as the leader and voice of business advocacy in the State on environmental issues. Our working relationships with staff in the Governor's Office, and at all levels of State Agencies, from directors down to permit writers, allow us to effectively engage the State on issues of importance to our members.

IERG's staff serve as eyes and ears for our members – we attend most, if not all, meetings and stakeholder/environmental policy development sessions throughout the State, and provide **regular updates** to the members so that they can rest assured that they are not missing anything.

IERG's involvement in matters **saves its members time and money** in terms of staff time, travel, etc. We are there when you cannot be and readily represent your interests.

Through IERG, **members speak with a collective voice** that demands attention and respect. Members' input directly impacts the positions and policies IERG pursues.

Members also **have an ally at the Statehouse**.

Most typically, IERG monitors pending legislation, whether it be proposed by environmental groups, the Illinois EPA, or others, to keep members informed and get involved when necessary. IERG has played a key role in coordinating business groups, negotiating, and drafting many of the major environmental laws that have been adopted in Illinois.

IERG membership also **provides access to the expertise** of IERG's consultants and other environmental professionals, known as the IERG Team. IERG members regularly pose questions for IERG's consultants in response to situations they are dealing with. IERG also helps facilitate dialogs among its members that are dealing or have dealt with similar environmental issues, to share the lessons learned or other insights.

We are grateful for your **input and partnership** and, whether you are a returning loyal member, or embarking on membership for the first time, we look forward to serving your business.

**Kelly Thompson**  
Executive Director



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