



GOOD NEIGHBOR



UNI / University of Northern Iowa
Center for Energy & Environmental Education

Good Neighbor Iowa works with partners in Iowa communities to reduce unnecessary urban pesticide use and to transform lawn culture to encourage appreciation of diverse lawns as a way to protect child health, water quality, pets, pollinators, and biodiversity.

This statewide public health education initiative is a project of the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy & Environmental Education.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

16,000+ PEOPLE REACHED

to educate about the harmful health impacts of pesticides

Our Good Neighbor Iowa staff, student fellows, and AmeriCorps members were at a number of community events and activities spreading the word about the harmful health impacts of pesticides. Did you see us out and about?

- Des Moines Botanical Gardens: Learn on Saturday
- DIG into Gardening Symposium – Ankeny
- Growing Sustainable Communities Conference – Dubuque
- Iowa City Earth Expo
- Cedar Falls Earth Fair
- Nine Square Feet – Des Moines
- Aspire of Perry
- Carlisle Garden Tour
- Indian Creek Nature Center's Monarch Fest – Cedar Rapids
- University of Northern Iowa Local Food Fest
- Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference – Des Moines
- Rooted Carrot Fall Food Festival – Cedar Falls
- Featured on Iowa Public Radio



Jordan and Kami at the Des Moines Farmers Market on August 2nd, 2025

UNI ENGAGEMENT

6 UNI Student Fellows & 2 Green Iowa AmeriCorps members helped spread the word and engage the community, focusing on Community Outreach, Social Media, and Tech Support.

- Students and members helped with:
 - Good Neighbor Iowa Trivia Event & Spring Social
 - Representation at events across the state including presentations at multiple public libraries
 - Tabling at the Des Moines Farmers Market
- Presentations given to classes of UNI Students

PARKS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE | BEYOND PESTICIDES

Our staff collaborated with Beyond Pesticides' Rika Gopinath to share a table and present "Life is Full of Turf Choices" at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference in Dubuque to share about organic landscape management and harmful health impacts of using artificial turf.



Brittany, Audrey, and Rika at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference in Dubuque on April 2nd, 2025



Good Neighbor Iowa

Good Neighbor Iowa was launched in the Spring of 2017 by UNI Students in collaboration with the former UNI Conservation Corps. The program's efforts extend across the state of Iowa with the help of our CEEE staff, UNI Student Fellows, AmeriCorps Members, and our Good Neighbor Iowa Local Champions.

Since the start of our program we've reached at least one Good Neighbor in almost all of Iowa's 99 counties. Check out some of our other accomplishments over the years below.

Good Neighbors are pledged in 85 of Iowa's 99 Counties!



Know anyone in our missing counties? Encourage them to pledge to be a Good Neighbor for the health of our children, pets, and environment.

Take the Pledge to be Pesticide Free!

By pledging you are helping us **raise awareness** about the harms of pesticides and track the amount of land in Iowa that is being **managed without the use of pesticides**. Our pledges help us show that across the state there are so many people that care about our environment, the health of our children and pets, our pollinators, waterways, and so much more.



Pledging is free and easy!

1. Visit goodneighbor Iowa.org/pledge or scan the QR code
2. Fill out the short pledge form
3. That's it!



200+ INSTITUTIONS

Including childcare centers, churches, schools, & other businesses pledged as Good Neighbors

2000+ GOOD NEIGHBORS

In 2025, we added 186 new Good Neighbors to our cohort across Iowa!

12,000+ MOWED ACRES

12,000+ mowed acres pledged to be managed without the use of unnecessary pesticides

20,000+ CHILDREN PROTECTED

Reducing pesticide usage helps protect children from harmful toxins.

320+ UNI STUDENTS & FACULTY

We engaged over 320 members of the UNI campus in our programming in 2025.