

# NEWS



A NiSource Company

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **NIPSCO Awards Local Organizations NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund Grants to Commemorate Earth Day**

**MERRILLVILLE, IN** -- To commemorate Earth Day 2005, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today awarded more than \$57,000 in grants through the NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund across 11 organizations.

The Environmental Challenge Fund, a not-for-profit corporation, offers an annual grant competition that supports local natural resource and wildlife enhancement projects and related educational efforts in communities across NiSource's market area. This geographic area includes 19 states stretching from the Gulf Coast through the Midwest to New England.

"With these grants, NIPSCO supports local organizations that are committed to improving the environment and the quality of life in the local communities we serve," said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. "We hope other local organizations and individuals will step forward and continue the momentum that has made a real difference in our cities and towns."

Within NIPSCO's communities, a local Environmental Challenge Fund Advisory Board reviewed and selected the winning proposals from grant requests submitted earlier this year.

"The Environmental Challenge Fund is one of many programs in which NiSource demonstrates its environmental commitment – and encourages, recognizes and supports the involvement of others," added Art Smith, NiSource senior vice president, environmental counsel and ECF board member. "NiSource and its subsidiaries help improve their local communities by promoting sustainable business practices and supporting initiatives that improve the quality of life."

In total, NiSource operating companies are awarding about \$208,000 in grants to not-for-profit organizations in conjunction with Earth Day 2005.

**(more)**



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Organizations being awarded grants include:

- Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Inc. (\$5,000.00)
- Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc. (\$1,500.00)
- Waterfowl USA – Northwest Indiana Chapter (\$5,000.00)
- Valparaiso Dept. of Parks and Recreation and Valparaiso Parks Foundation (\$10,000.00)
- Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy, Inc. (\$5,000.00)
- Walkerton Parks Foundation (\$5,000.00)
- City of Crown Point, Dept. of Parks and Recreation (\$5,000.00)
- Dunes-Calumet Audobon Society & Cedar Lake Fish & Game Wetlands Fund (\$1,440.00)
- Lowell Parks Dept. (\$10,000.00)
- Niches Land Trust (\$4,500.00)
- Save the Dunes Conservation Fund (\$5,000.00)

**About NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund**

The NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund was established in 1995 and has contributed nearly \$858,000 to 241 projects since its inception. The Environmental Challenge Fund is funded primarily by a grant from the NiSource Charitable Foundation. For more information about the Fund, visit [www.nisource.com/enviro/ecf.asp](http://www.nisource.com/enviro/ecf.asp).

**About NiSource Inc.**

NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), based in Merrillville, Ind., is a Fortune 500 company engaged in natural gas transmission, storage and distribution, as well as electric generation, transmission and distribution. NiSource operating companies deliver energy to 3.7 million customers located within the high-demand energy corridor stretching from the Gulf Coast through the Midwest to New England. Information about NiSource and its subsidiaries is available via the Internet at [www.nisource.com](http://www.nisource.com).

**About NIPSCO**

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With nearly 700,000 natural gas customers and 440,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipsco.nisource.com](http://www.nipsco.nisource.com).

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