

ASHRAE Indiana Day on the Hill Event

The Central Indiana Chapter held a Day on the Hill (DOTH) event at the Indiana Statehouse on Wednesday, February 21st, 2018. It was Indiana's first Day on the Hill event. Four volunteers attended: Jim Arnold, Andrew Cheung, Doug Fick, and Jim Scarborough

Statehouse Layout Background:

The Indiana Assembly has a short session for 2018 and all member offices reside in the Statehouse. There are 50 State Senators and 100 Statehouse Representatives. At the time of this report, Indiana is well known as a Republican state. The Statehouse itself is split into quarters: Senate Republicans, House Republicans, Senate Democrats, and House Democrats. See Figure 1. The Senate and House offices have doorkeepers on the third floor that you must check in at before seeing a legislator. The offices are spread out across multiple floors once you enter through the doorkeeper's entrance. It is important to note that there is no particular layout to the legislators' offices after this point. Legislative assistants (LA's) and interns may represent more than one legislator, and legislators sit next to LA's as well as each other. In some cases, the House representatives sat three in a single office. There were other offices on the third and fourth floors in the south half of the building but it was unclear why they were separate from the other offices.

Planning:

The Indiana Statehouse is organized so that appointments must be made in advance to see a legislator. Because it was not feasible to meet all 150 legislators in a day, the DOTH efforts were directed to only those legislators that were involved with utility and/or environmental committees. See Table 1 for those contacted. With a more focused approach, we were able to make 45 phone calls and setup approximately 12 appointments. In addition, many of the LA's contacted setup appointments with additional legislators outside of our original scope.

- Representative Frye
- Representative Errington
- Senator Buck
- Representative Morrison
- Representative Hamilton
- Senator Ruckelshaus
- Representative Aylesworth
- Representative Ober
- House Minority Leader Goodin
- Representative Devon
- Representative Bauer
- Representative Van Natter

In some cases, volunteers spoke with LA's or interns rather than the legislator themselves.

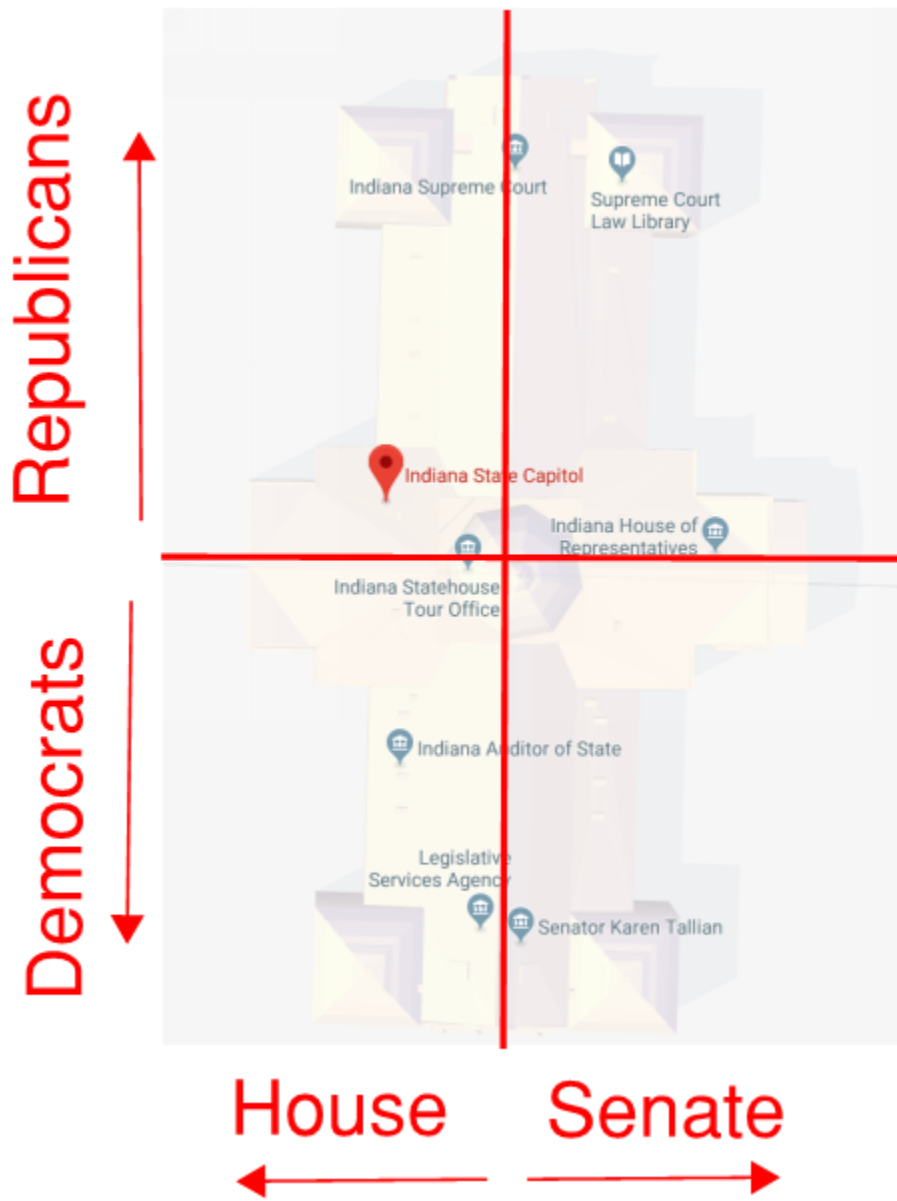


Figure 1: How the Statehouse is split up.

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Table 1: Outreach List

Representative	Party	House or Senate	Committee	District	Email	Phone Number	Legislative Assistant Information
Carey Hamilton	D	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	87	H87@iga.in.gov		
Sue Errington	D	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	34	H34@iga.in.gov		
David Frizzell	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	93	H93@iga.in.gov	317-232-9981	Bianca Gogel
David Niezgodski	D	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	10	S10@iga.in.gov	317-232-9404	mikala.ellsworth@iga.in.gov
David Ober - Chair	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	82	H82@iga.in.gov	317-232-9643	David Buyze
Don Lehe	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	25	H25@iga.in.gov	317-234-2993	Elizabeth Rogers
Doug Miller	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	48	H48@iga.in.gov	317-234-2993	Elizabeth Rogers
Eric Bassler	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	39	S39@iga.in.gov	317-232-9453 or 317-232-9490	Debby McCarty
Mark Stoops	D	S	Utilities Committee	40	S40@iga.in.gov	317-232-9404	mikala.ellsworth@iga.in.gov
Robert Behning	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	91	H91@iga.in.gov	317-232-9643	David Buyze
Victoria Spartz	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	20	S20@iga.in.gov	317-234-9443	Andrianna Hji-Avgoustis
William Friend	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	23	H23@iga.in.gov	317-232-9981	Bianca Gogel
Alan Morrison	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	42	H42@iga.in.gov	317-232-9648	Evan Eagleson

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B Patrick Bauer	D	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	6	H6@iga.in.gov	317-232-9834	Samantha.lozano@iga.in.gov
Cherrish Pryor	D	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	94	H94@iga.in.gov	317-232-9991	anastasia.foster@iga.in.gov
Dale DeVon	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	5	H5@iga.in.gov	317-232-9678	Katie Mills
David Wolkins	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	18	H18@iga.in.gov	317-234-9028	Erin Moorhous
Doug Gutwein	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	16	H16@iga.in.gov	317-232-9613	Alyssa Jennings
Douglas Eckerty	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	26	S26@iga.in.gov	317-232-9466	Beren Gast-Bray
Edmond Soliday	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	4	H4@iga.in.gov	317-232-9815	Luke Wilson
Eric Koch	R	S	Utilities Committee	44	S44@iga.in.gov	317-234-9425	Edward Arredondo
Erin Houchin	R	S	Utilities Committee	47	S47@iga.in.gov	317-232-9488	Taylor Knox
Greg Beumer	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	33	H33@iga.in.gov	317-234-9028	Erin Moorhous
Heath VanNatter	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	38	H38@iga.in.gov	317-232-9620	Andrew Alvarez
Jack Sandlin	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	36	S36@iga.in.gov	317-232-9414	Cody Smith
James Merritt	R	S	Utilities Committee	31	S31@iga.in.gov	317-232-9533	Jordan Rose
James Tomes	R	S	Utilities Committee	49	S49@iga.in.gov	317-232-9414	Cody Smith
Jean Leising	R	S	Utilities Committee	42	S42@iga.in.gov	317-232-9493	Alex Zimmerman
John Ruckelshaus	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	30	S30@iga.in.gov	317-232-9808	Chris Bandy
Karen Tallian	D	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	4	S4@iga.in.gov	317-232-9847	adam.jones@iga.in.gov

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Karlee Macer	D	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	92	H92@iga.in.gov	317-232-9794	anna.wiegand@iga.in.gov
Liz Brown	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	15	S15@iga.in.gov	317-232-9807	Maureen Gordin Weingardt
Lonnie Randolph	D	S	Utilities Committee	2	S2@iga.in.gov	317-232-9532	michelle.moody@iga.in.gov
Mark Messmer	R	S	Utilities Committee	48	S48@iga.in.gov	317-234-9441	Dawna Smith
Matt Pierce	D	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	61	H61@iga.in.gov	317-232-9798	julian.winborn@iga.in.gov
Michael Delph	R	S	Utilities Committee	29	S29@iga.in.gov	317-232-9541	Lawrence Hemphill
Mike Aylesworth	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	11	H11@iga.in.gov	317-234-9447	Jacob Harkin
Mike Speedy	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	90	H90@iga.in.gov	317-232-9863	Andrea Zimmerman
Randall Frye	R	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	67	H67@iga.in.gov	317-234-3827	Abby Stimpson
Rick Niemeyer	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	6	S6@iga.in.gov	317-232-9489	Michael Conway
Ryan Dvorak	D	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	8	H8@iga.in.gov	317-232-9794	anna.wiegand@iga.in.gov
Ryan Hatfield	D	H	Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee	77	H77@iga.in.gov	317-234-9048	samantha.bresnahan@iga.in.gov
Sean Eberhart	R	H	Environmental Affairs Committee	53	H53@iga.in.gov	317-232-9793	Grant Achenbach
Timothy Lanane	D	S	Utilities Committee	25	S25@iga.in.gov	317-232-9427	emmakeys@iga.in.gov
Vaneta Becker	R	S	Environmental Affairs Committee	50	S50@iga.in.gov	317-232-9494	Micha Sabec

Highlights:

- House Minority Leader Goodin was kind enough to meet with our volunteers and ask for 30 copies of all of our handouts in order to distribute to the rest of the Democratic caucus.
- Senator Buck gave us a contact in the Legislative Services Agency (LSA), George Angelon. The LSA is comprised of lawyers whose job it is to research information on subjects the legislators are unfamiliar with. By knowing how information is passed to Representatives and Senators, ASHRAE can be more effective at being a resource to the people who have the ears of the Indiana legislators. Senator Buck also suggested we focus on the public health committees for the next time.
- Representative Errington and Hamilton were very happy to meet us and asked many questions regarding how we operate and what we do.
- Representative Frye could not attend our meeting, but we were able to meet with his LA. His LA sits on the utilities committee and was more than happy to pass our information along to the committee members. She also recommended particular members of Congress to contact.

Key Lessons:

- Since LA's and their interns are the ones who set the appointments of legislators, it is important to be extremely polite to them. Furthermore, it is worth creating a contact spreadsheet list of which LA represents which legislator. This helps in making fewer phone calls and helps you create a manageable system of setting up appointments.
- Our message is pure and thus, many legislators were very responsive. They cared that we did not want anything except to help them the next time they needed expert technical knowledge on topics within the ASHRAE standards scope.
- Write thank you follow up letters and debrief with volunteers so you have specific information you can put in the thank you letters to make them more personal.
- The legislative process is chaotic. Schedules change at a moment's notice. Therefore, it is vital to be able to answer your phone at all times in case a legislator's schedule frees up. In our case, the meeting with House Minority Leader Goodin was completely impromptu. His LA saw an opening in the schedule and called, asking if we had volunteers who could meet immediately. Luckily, we were in between appointments and could make it.
- Go to the DOTH event early and/or the week before so you are familiar with the layout of the building. Be sure you know how the offices are laid out as well. We were lucky enough to only have four volunteers, so it was easy to split up in groups of two and sit in the legislator's offices. Any more than two volunteers to a legislator would have been very cramped in some cases. If you are unsure, you should ask one of the LA's when you are scheduling the appointments.
- Coordinating multiple appointments requires you to know all volunteers ahead of time. Be sure to send out outreach emails early and also request that the word be spread during chapter meetings.
- It was recommended that we have high quality folders and pamphlets created so that our marketing collateral materials seem more professional.
- The Democrats seemed to be more receptive to our message than the Republicans.
- Do not call a Senator a Representative and vice versa.

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Follow-up items:

The only follow up with the senators and representatives completed was a personalized thank you letter. However, there were follow up items that came from the Day on the Hill coordination, including contacting the LSA, writing a DOTH report, and debriefing with the rest of the Central Indiana Chapter board members.

Conclusion:

The first Indiana Day on the Hill event went well. We were able to pass along the ASHRAE message and have our presence known. Next year, we will plan earlier, and target different committees while making sure we make a point to talk to specific LA's and interns. That way they will be more receptive for every subsequent DOTH hereafter.