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Households Involved in Pollution Solution
(HIPS)

COLLECTION 80

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Michelle Kleehammer, December 2016

Creator/Corporate name: Households Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS)

Inclusive Dates: 1970-1984, bulk 1971-1975

Physical Description: 1 box, (.6 linear feet).

Provenance:

The Households Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS) Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Households Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS) was founded as Housewives Interested in Pollution Solutions* in March 1970 by Barbara Anderson, an Urbana resident and mother of three, who was inspired by the activities leading up to the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. After attending a lecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign about the effects of waste and pollution, she invited 10 fellow housewives into her home to discuss ways to address these concerns on a household and local level. By February 1972, HIPS had grown to nearly 500 members and was publishing a monthly newsletter about its activities.

Barbara Anderson served as the founding president, followed by Anne [Nan] Ehrlich, Betsy Pierce, Heather Young, and Dannel McCollum. One of HIPS's founding members, Laurel Prussing, would later become mayor of Urbana. In 1981, Nan Ehrlich described HIPS as "the only broad-spectrum activist environmental organization focused on the geographic area of Champaign County."

One of HIPS's areas of greatest activity was its work to establish local and statewide recycling programs. HIPS organized the first local paper drive since World War II (1971), along with a glass bottle (1970), and can drive (1971). To achieve a broader impact, HIPS worked toward an Illinois "bottle bill" that would establish a 5 cent deposit return on cans and bottles. These deposits were intended to encourage recycling, reduce litter, and decrease waste. HIPS was instrumental in introducing such a bill to the Illinois state legislature in 1971, and such a bill has been introduced every two years since (with no success as of 2016).

They continued to encourage community recycling awareness and coordinated with Urbana entrepreneur Richard Squire to establish Twin City Recycling & Reclamation, the first official recycling center in Champaign County. HIPS members were interested in several other environmental issues. They pushed to create recognized and safe bicycle paths throughout Champaign-Urbana. They also publicly opposed the damming of the Vermillion River that established the Middle Fork Reservoir as a largescale



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recreational space in Central Illinois. On a broader scale, HIPS became involved with researching and presenting information to community members and sharing their work with a broader audience of environmental and women's groups throughout the Midwest and beyond.

Some of the documents HIPS produced addressed subjects such as energy conservation, nuclear power plant safety, eco-architecture, and environmentally-responsible household practices. They encouraged members to speak to other groups and write to other organizations and legislators about their concerns, and HIPS activists supplied them with position papers and speaking guidelines.

The records suggest that HIPS was most active from its founding in 1970 through the end of the decade, when they published their own history. All the administrative records such as the bylaws and minutes fall within the 1970s. But correspondence, clippings, and selected documents reveal that HIPS continued their work in some form into the early 1980s, though the date of their dissolution is unclear.

*Note about name: The group was initially called Housewives Interested in Pollution Solutions but changed its name to Housewives Involved in Pollution Solutions around June 1971. It again changed its name to Households Involved in Pollution Solutions in late spring 1974 to reflect its interest in appealing to a broader membership base that also included men and families as well as college students from the University of Illinois. The acronym HIPS was used consistently since its founding.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains records pertaining to the Champaign County organization Households Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS) from its founding in 1970 through 1984, with the bulk of material covering 1971-1975. The collection covers administration, environmental concerns, activities, and local advocacy. Materials include organizational bylaws, general and board meeting minutes, member correspondence, membership rosters, news clippings, position papers, and records of local outreach and activism.

Arrangement:

Records are organized into two series. Records within each series are organized by record type, then chronologically.

Series 1: Administrative Records and Correspondence

Series 2: Campaigns and Activities

Related Collections:

HIPS: A History, Households Involved in Pollution Solutions, 1970-1979: A Story of Grass Roots Environmentalism in the 1970s / [Edited by Dannel McCollum, Champaign, IL, 1979?]
Call Number: A ILLINOIS (Champ) HIP

Local Organization Newsletters collection,

Hips Newsletter, [August 1970] [as Housewives Interested...]

Housewives Interested in Pollution Solutions [Newsletter], [September 1970]

The HIPS Bulletin, October 1970 October – June 1971 June [as Housewives Interested...]

HIPS Bulletin, July 1971 July – September 1973 [as Housewives Involved...]

HIPS News, October 1973 – June 1974 June [as Housewives Involved...]



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HIPS Bulletin, 1976 June – 1979 April/May [as Households Involved...]
Environmental Eye, 1981 April – 1982 April/May [as Households Involved...]

Names:

Anderson, Barbara
Ehrlich, Anne [Nan]
Households Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS)
Housewives Interested in Pollution Solutions (HIPS)
Housewives Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS)
McCollum, Dannel Angus
Pierce, Betsy
Prussing, Laurel

Subjects Terms:

Cookbooks
Environmental Activists
Environmental Concerns
Environmental Protection
Environmental Protection--Champaign
Environmental Protection--Urbana
Environmentalists--Societies, Etc.
Women--Societies and Clubs

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Administrative Records and Correspondence

Folder 1: Bylaws, 1975, 1976
Folder 2: Minutes, September 1973 – December 1975
Folder 3: Correspondence, May 1971 – June 1982, and undated

Series 2: Activities and Publications

Folder 4: Clippings, April 27, 1970 – April 14, 1984
Folder 5: Campaigns and Causes, 1971 – 1982, and undated
Folder 6: HIPS Eco-Cook Book and Eco-Hints, Part 1, undated
Folder 7: HIPS Eco-Cook [Book] and Eco-Hints, Part 2, February 1974