



# GREEN NEWS

The Newsletter for ID's Clean Energy Incubator Program

## Welcome to the First Edition of Green News!

We're excited to introduce this newsletter as a way to keep you connected with the ID Clean Energy Incubator (CEI) Program community. Since launching the program last June, ID has attracted—and now supports—39 companies, collectively representing more than 270 full-time, part-time, and contract employees. As we continue to grow this initiative, we aim to expand our reach while delivering high-quality resources, business development programming, networking opportunities, and personalized 1:1 advisement that you have come to expect from Innovation DuPage.

We want to hear from you! Share your upcoming events, recent wins, or company milestones with **Hannah Macey**, Marketing Manager, to be featured in future editions.

## Program Updates

Congratulations to the 13 companies selected to participate in our inaugural CEI Cohort Program, launching March 6!

Built on ID's signature Owner to CEO curriculum, the CEI Cohort Program is a 13-week experience designed to equip clean energy founders with the knowledge, resources, and subject-matter experts needed to grow and scale their businesses. If you're interested in participating, our second cohort launches in September—contact **Ricardo Magallon**, Interim CEI Program Director, to be added to the list.

## Opportunities

### Government Contracting 101 Webinar

Interested in exploring government contracting opportunities for your business? Join the Southland Development Authority for a free online session on **Monday, February 17 from 12:00–1:00 p.m.**

This webinar covers the basics of government contracting—including the process, requirements, and opportunities available to small businesses and entrepreneurs. Whether you're new to government contracts or looking to expand your knowledge, you'll gain valuable insights into this revenue stream.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

### NIU MBA Capstone Program: One Spot Left for an ID Member!



**Northern Illinois University**  
*Your Future. Our Focus.*

Northern Illinois University's MBA Capstone Program offers an exciting opportunity for local companies to receive comprehensive strategic business plans developed by Executive MBA student teams. Under the guidance of Professor Ed Buckley, these teams integrate their expertise in sales, marketing, finance, operations, and technology to create value for participating organizations.

This impactful program has already supported nearly 20 Innovation DuPage member companies, and NIU is still seeking one more ID Member company to participate this cycle.

If your company is interested in having an MBA team develop a customized business plan, please contact Ed Buckley by February 28 at: [ed.buckley@allqualityinc.com](mailto:ed.buckley@allqualityinc.com), or (847) 778-6960

# Coming Up

## Save the Date: The Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit

We hope you're planning to join us on **February 26, 2026**, for the **Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit**. In addition to some amazing insights and resources for entrepreneurs, it will also feature speaker **Mijo Vodopec, Director of Climate Solutions at the MacArthur Foundation**, speaking about how **Clean Energy is an emerging market in the Midwest**.

Although the event is currently waitlisted, we've secured space to ensure CEI Program Participants can attend, and we're looking forward to a strong showing from our community at this important networking and educational event—so please reach out to **Ricardo Magallon** or **Arlinda Bajrami**, Interim Program Manager, to confirm your spot. And don't forget to wear your ID pin!



### College of DuPage and Innovation DuPage Present **The Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit**

**Thursday  
Feb. 26  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Social hour with refreshments**

Jack H. Turner Conference Center  
Student Resource Center  
(SRC 2000)

**Free attendance**  
Lunch and refreshments  
provided

Learn more and register  
<http://bit.ly/47R686Z>



#### **AI, Quantum and the Future of Work**

The Midwest is famous for getting things done. Since the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Chicago area has been a hub of innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurs.

Join College of DuPage President Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi, along with a host of thought leaders and experts, for the second annual Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit. Moderated by Jon Hansen of WGN Radio, the summit will explore emerging markets with industry trailblazers from organizations including Intel, Lenovo and more.

#### **Featured Sessions**

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work
- Critical Resources to Build Your Entrepreneurial Team
- Practical Strategies for Funding Your Startup
- Emerging Markets: Quantum, Fintech, Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Energy
- Inspirational Success Stories from Successful Entrepreneurs

 College of DuPage

 INNOVATION  
DUPAGE

For ADA accommodations, please email [access@cod.edu](mailto:access@cod.edu) with the event title in the subject line and your accommodation request. Please email two weeks in advance.  
©2026 College of DuPage. All rights reserved. CE-25-112954(1/26)300

## Join Us at the Building Energy Hub's Virtual Session



**WEBINAR**

**Contractor Connections**  
Chicagoland Clean Energy Incubator Program

**FEB 27 | 12:00 PM CT**



The Building Energy Hub is hosting a virtual education session about Innovation DuPage's Clean Energy Incubator Program on Friday, February 27 at 12:00 p.m.

Our Interim Program Manager, Arlinda Bajrami, will share how the CEI Program supports clean energy entrepreneurs and small business owners across Chicagoland and beyond—including premium membership, coworking

space, mentorship, training, and funding support. She'll also walk through the application process so you can see if the program is right for your business.

[Register Here](#)

## Clean Energy Incubator Workshop: The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



### The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



**Monday, March 30th, 2026**  
**In-Person: 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

- Learn the seven core conditions investors look for—from market clarity to profitability to right-fit capital.
- Build the business and financial acumen every fundable founder needs, especially for capital-intensive and first-of-a-kind technologies.
- Walk away with a practical framework to test your assumptions, gather 'receipts', and de-risk your path to viability.

*Shubha K. Chakravarthy*      535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



The Clean Energy Incubator Program is hosting its first workshop at Innovation DuPage! Program participants and Innovation DuPage members are welcome to attend.

Join investor Shubha Chakravarthy to learn the seven core conditions investors look for, from market clarity to profitability to right-fit capital. You'll build the business and financial acumen needed for capital-intensive and first-of-a-kind clean energy technologies and walk away with a practical success map to guide product development, customer acquisition, revenue strategy, and long-term growth.

[Register Here](#)

## Industrial Hemp Farmer Informational Event

Join Innovation DuPage members Catavus and IH RISE (Industrial Hemp - Regenerative Innovation for Sustainable Enterprises) for an informational event on Tuesday, March 11 at the College of DuPage Technical Education Center.

This free event explores the opportunity to grow industrial hemp as a row crop in 2026. Industry leaders will share insights on planting, harvesting, soil health, and more—with farmers' best interests in mind.



# INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMER INFORMATIONAL EVENT



**NETWORKING 6:00-6:30PM**  
**PRESENTATION 6:30-8:00PM**  
**Q&A 8:00-9:00PM**

**11 MAR  
2026**

**BUILDING: TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER**  
**ROOM: ROOM TEC 1038AB**  
**ADDRESS: TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER,**  
**425 FAWELL BLVD., GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137**

**Learn about growing industrial hemp for  
grain and fiber as a row crop in 2026.**

**Industrial hemp varieties are covered by  
crop insurance and have recently been  
classified under a "material" designation.**

Topics Include...

Planting | Harvesting | Offtake Agreements

Weed Management | Soil Health | More!

**Low Labor, Low Inputs, and Improved Soil Health**

**Industry Leaders share their perspectives with  
Farmers' best interests in mind!**

**Shedding light on resources and industry developments,  
making this a very different opportunity than before.**

**Bring any questions you have for after the presentation!**



**Free Registration**



[Register Here](#)

## Resources

To access any of the resources below, Please reach out to Ricardo Magallon or Arlinda Bajrami. They will help you get connected, determine eligibility, and guide you through next steps.

### Grant Writing:

Jessica Wain — Hobbs & Wain Advancement Partners

We're excited to welcome Jessica Wain as a new resource for CEI Program companies. Jessica provides grant writing and proposal development support, helping you identify, pursue, and secure funding opportunities that can accelerate your company's growth and scalability.

### Legal Support:

CEI Program Participants can receive legal support and potential expense reimbursement for assistance with:

- Structuring or restructuring your business
- Intellectual property protection
- Contracts, compliance, or general advisement

### Interns:

We are partnering with the CEJA Aurora Workforce Hub to offer CEI companies access to paid interns in the following clean-energy career pathways:

- Commercial Energy Auditor
- Solar Installer and Sales
- HVAC-R Entry-Level Technician

This initiative is currently being developed, but we anticipate making these short-term internship opportunities available, March 1 through May 31.

[Member Portal Login Page](#)

[Member Meetup Signup Sheet](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!