

## 47 Companies Participating in our Clean Energy Incubator Program and Counting!



## Coming Up

### Clean Energy Incubator Workshop: Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy

Knowledge is Power: How C-PACE Financing Can Bring Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects to Life!



Anna Maria Kowalik

Monday, March 30th, 2026

In-Person: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

- What is Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy financing?
- How does C-PACE work?
- What are the qualifying property types and improvement measures?
- What are the benefits of using C-PACE in the capital stack?

535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



The Clean Energy Incubator Program is hosting its first workshop at Innovation DuPage **tonight**. Anna Maria Kowalik will walk attendees through C-PACE financing, a tool that helps commercial property owners fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and EV charging projects with little to no upfront cost. Clean Energy Incubator program participants and Innovation DuPage members are welcome, and feel free to bring your team.

[Register Here](#)



Join biweekly Member Meetups at Innovation DuPage! Network, enjoy bagels & coffee, and learn from spotlight members & resource experts.

The next Member Meetup will be on April 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Member Spotlight:** Assad Koshul of Game Changer Mindsets  
**Member Resource:** Phil Brown of SCORE Fox Valley

Following the Member Meetup, there will be a Technology Cluster meeting.

If you can't make it in person, attend virtually through our [Zoom Link](#)

[Sign up](#) to present at a future Member Meetup

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## ID April Workshop: Raising Money Through Crowdfunding

**Beyond the Pitch Deck: Raising Capital from Real People with Investment Crowdfunding**

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**Wednesday, April 8th, 2026**  
**In-Person: 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

What You'll Learn:

- How Regulation Crowdfunding works and what the SEC framework actually allows
- The difference between donation crowdfunding, rewards crowdfunding, and investment crowdfunding
- What investors look for in a Reg CF campaign and how to position your business to attract them

**Dorian Dickinson**      **535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137**

FUNDINGHOPE

Join us April 8 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. to learn about investment crowdfunding with Dorian Dickinson, CEO of FundingHope. Find out how to raise capital from your community and customers, what makes crowdfunding campaigns successful, and whether it's the right funding option for your business.

[Register Here](#)

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## Green Drives Conference & Expo: May 14

The Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation presents its annual Green Drives Conference & Expo on May 14 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Danada House in Wheaton. This Midwest clean-transportation conference features the latest in electric vehicles, alternative fuels, and zero-emissions technologies, with dozens of exhibitors and vehicles on display. Learn from fleet managers, policy makers, and industry experts about trends and best practices for clean transportation. Fleet managers attend free (limited time offer, request by March 31).

[Register Here](#)

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# Opportunities

## Apply Now: DOE Boost Entrepreneur Program

Launch an EnergyTech venture with the DOE Boost Program. This virtual program gives entrepreneurs exclusive access to cutting-edge DOE lab technologies, expert mentorship, and the opportunity to license technology and launch your own spinout company. Top-performing teams are eligible for a share of \$100,000 in awards.

The program is open to entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, with special encouragement for applicants in Illinois and seven other states.

The application deadline is June 26, 2026, with the program running from late July through an in-person Industry Showcase in early December.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)

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## Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund

The Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund is designed to help developers, contractors, and building owners finance clean energy and energy efficiency projects across Illinois. This program provides short-term bridge loans to cover upfront project costs while awaiting incentives, rebates, or tax credits, helping projects move forward without delays. Eligible upgrades may include solar, battery storage, geothermal systems, and energy efficiency improvements in commercial or multifamily buildings.

This program is a \$14 million revolving loan fund that will offer loans of up to \$1 million each for a short term (12-18 month) and, in some instances, more lengthy participation loans.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)

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## State Small Business Credit Initiative: Low-Interest Loans for Clean Energy Businesses

Illinois small businesses working in clean energy can access low-interest loans through the Illinois Climate Bank's SSBCI program. Loans range from \$25,000 to \$2 million at a flat rate of 1–2% annually, with terms up to 7 years. Eligible projects include solar, wind, EV charging, energy conservation, and more. Businesses must have fewer than 750 employees and operate in Illinois.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)

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## Illinois Innovation Voucher Program: Now Accepting Applications

Illinois small and mid-sized businesses can apply for vouchers covering up to 75% of costs (up to \$75,000) to partner with Illinois universities and research institutions on R&D projects. Eligible uses include product development, prototyping, testing, and access to labs and equipment. Applicants must be Illinois-based for-profit businesses.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)

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## Solar Jobs in Illinois: Research Participation Opportunity

The Climate Jobs Institute (CJI) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is conducting a **statewide study** to better understand working conditions and job quality in Illinois' solar industry. The study seeks input directly from current and former solar workers (particularly installation professionals and sales representatives), contractors, and employers.

Participants may choose to complete an interview, survey, or both:

- The interview lasts one hour (via Zoom or in person)
- The survey takes 15–20 minutes

All participation is **voluntary and confidential**. Interviews and surveys can be completed in English or Spanish. The study's findings will inform workforce development strategies and clean energy policy consideration in Illinois.

[Sign-up Link](#)

[Survey and Interview Incentives](#)

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## Save Money on Transportation: The Case for Used EVs

Rocky Mountain Institute's recent analysis shows that used electric vehicles now cost 10% less on average than comparable gas cars, and drivers who switch can cut their fuel costs by \$800-\$1,000 annually. With 3 out of 4 cars sold in the U.S. being pre-owned, used EVs offer immediate savings on both purchase price and operating costs.

[Read More Here](#)

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## CxEnergy 2026 Conference

CxEnergy 2026 takes place April 21-24 in Chicago at the Sheraton Grand. The conference covers building commissioning, energy management strategies, and case studies across various sectors. Attendees earn continuing education credits.

[Register Here](#)

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# Policy

## Illinois Green Policy Update: March 2026

Illinois Green Alliance's latest policy update covers legislation currently being considered by the Illinois General Assembly, including the POWER (Protecting Our Water, Energy, and Ratepayers) Act, Plug-In Solar, and Utility Data Access for Gas Utilities.

[Read More Here](#)

## What the CRGA Act Means for Your Business

Illinois just passed the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act, which builds on previous clean energy legislation and creates significant new opportunities for clean energy contractors. The Act mandates 3 gigawatts of battery storage deployment, expands energy efficiency programs, and creates a Virtual Power Plant program that will allow customers with batteries and solar to provide grid services and get paid. It also funds geothermal energy network pilot programs and strengthens protections against solar fraud, helping legitimate installers compete fairly. Funding and program rollouts will occur gradually depending on regulatory approvals and program development.

[Read More Here](#)

# Resources

Businesses who haven't completed onboarding do so as soon as possible.

**The below steps should be completed by all Clean Energy Incubator Program members:**

1. Schedule a meeting with [Beth Ann Wymyslowski](#) Innovation DuPage member onboarding
2. Schedule a meeting with [Anushka Verma](#) for tech stack onboarding

**Allies for Community Business** provides capital, coaching, and connections to help entrepreneurs grow businesses that create jobs and wealth in their communities. Allies for Community Business offers loans up to \$500,000 to support community businesses.

[Schedule a Session: Allies for Community Business](#)

**The Illinois EPA Office of Energy** supports energy efficiency, resiliency, and clean energy through public partnerships and inter-agency collaborations to reduce energy burden and improve energy equity in Illinois.

[Office of Energy: Listserv Sign-up](#)

**The Building Energy Hub** is designed for building developers, owners, operators, managers, and contractors. It provides education, highlights relevant tools, and connects you to key resources to support your clean energy projects. Explore playbooks, financing opportunities, case studies, and more.

[Building Energy Hub Website](#)

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.

### Newsletter Access:

Want to add a team member or partner to the Green News mailing list? Contact [Arlinda](#) to get them subscribed.

**Grant Writing:**

Jessica Wain — Hobbs & Wain Advancement Partners

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.

[Jessica's Booking Link](#)

**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 forthcoming.

**ID Team Support:**

- **Mike Varon** - Strategic Business Advisor
- **Ozge Guney** - Strategic Business Advisor
- **Heidi Kuharich** - Program Instructional Designer
- **Arlinda Bajrami** - Program Manager
- **Ricardo Magallon** - Director
- **Dan Facchini** - Managing Director

[Member Portal Login Page](#)

[Member Meetup Signup Sheet](#)

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