



GREEN NEWS

The Newsletter for ID's Clean Energy Incubator Program

Coming Up

Goodwill Workforce Informational Session: April 29



Event host by 548 Foundation Training Provider

Wednesday, April 29
2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M

Goodwill Workforce Office
61 S Broadway
Aurora IL 60505
Please contact 331-322-3695

 **Workforce**
Connection Center



The 548 Foundation, a training provider for solar and pre-apprenticeship programs, is hosting an informational session on Wednesday, April 29 at 2:45 p.m. at their Aurora office.

Attendees will learn about the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which offers no-cost skills training for those interested in construction, building trades, and clean energy careers, along with preparation for registered apprenticeships and supportive services including childcare assistance, transportation, and training stipends.

Contact **331-322-3695** to learn more.



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 29 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Joe Stella of Backpack Agency

Member Resource: Ileen Kelly and Colleen Sall of APEX

Following the Member Meetup, there will be an EdTech and Education 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

Online With OE3: Overview of Financial Resources for Small Businesses: May 6

Join the Illinois Power Agency and DCEO's Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment on May 6 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. for a free virtual event covering equity in Illinois' clean energy economy, small business financial resources, and federal, state, and local programs.

[Register Here](#)

SBA Announces 2026 America's Seed Fund Week

Join the Small Business Administration May 12–14 for America's Seed Fund Week, a free virtual event connecting entrepreneurs in advanced technology with federal agency representatives and over \$5 billion in non-dilutive funding opportunities. Sessions will cover navigating SBIR/STTR programs, recent changes from the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act, and resources to support your innovation journey.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

CTLR Networking Dinner: May 12



Join Cleantech Leaders for a networking dinner in Chicago on Tuesday, May 12, with our special guest speaker Jigar Shah, Co-Managing Partner at Multiplier, and Gil Quiniones, President & CEO of ComEd.

The evening will bring together 40–50 senior leaders across cleantech, energy, finance, and policy for a candid conversation, audience Q&A, and dinner.

To RSVP, please reach out to [Dan Facchini](#) or [Ricardo Magallon](#).

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.

[Register Here](#)

Opportunities

Funded Summer Internship Program through UChicago

The University of Chicago's Metcalf Internship Program offers Clean Energy Incubator Program participants access to undergraduate interns with a \$4,000 stipend provided by the university.

To participate, you'll need to submit a job description with details about your organization, the internship role and responsibilities, required qualifications, location and time commitment, and your hiring timeline. The application process moves quickly, so reach out to [Arlinda Bajrami](#) or [Ricardo Magallon](#) soon if you're interested.

To Learn More

Illinois Clean Ports Program RFP: Shawneetown Port

As part of the Illinois Clean Ports Program, the Shawneetown Port District has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure a (BABA)-compliant Electric Material Handler.

Deadline: May 6, 2026

To Learn More

City of Chicago Department of Fleet and Facility Management: EV Charging Request for Proposal (RFP)

The City of Chicago has released an RFP open for vendors to support EV charging infrastructure across two program areas:

- City Fleet EVSE Program: Installation and management of charging infrastructure to support the City's growing EV fleet
- Public Charging Pilot: Installation and operation of public, pay-to-charge stations at City-approved sites

Deadline: June 16, 2026.

- Solicitation number: 66215
- Specification number: 1332033.

For full details, [please view the RFP here](#) and visit the City of Chicago's [Current Bid Opportunities webpage](#).

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

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

CRGA Act: Taking Effect June 1

The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act will take effect on June 1, 2026. This law builds on previous clean energy legislation and creates significant new opportunities for clean energy contractors in areas such as battery storage deployment, energy efficiency programs, and the development of a Virtual Power Plant program. It also funds geothermal network pilot programs and strengthens protections against solar fraud, helping legitimate installers compete on a level playing field. Funding and program rollouts will occur gradually, depending on regulatory approvals and program development timelines. For more information, please refer to the factsheets developed by Elevate.

[CRGA Factsheet](#)

[CRGA Overview](#)

Partner Resources

Dorian Dickinson, CEO of FundingHope, has shared his presentation from last week's workshop on raising capital through investment crowdfunding. The slides cover how Regulation Crowdfunding works, what investors look for, and how to evaluate if your business is ready.

[Access the Presentation Here](#)

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.

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

ID 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 Wymyslawski** Innovation DuPage member onboarding
 2. Schedule a meeting with **Anushka Verma** for tech stack onboarding
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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** - Interim Program Manager
 - **Ricardo Magallon** - Interim Program Director
 - **Dan Facchini** - Managing Director
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[Member Portal Login Page](#)

[Member Meetup Signup Sheet](#)

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