



GREEN NEWS

The Newsletter for ID's Clean Energy Incubator Program

Coming Up

Small Business Administration | America's Seed Fund Week Webinar Series: May 12–14

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](#)



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 May 13 from 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Tracy Sherrier of Fi For Kids

Problem Solving Session: IT Problem Solving Session with Adam Jeffries, Strategic Tech Advisor

Following the Member Meetup, there will be an Commercial Goods and Services 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

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation | 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](#)

Cook County | Prime & Subcontractor Contract Compliance Webinar: May 15

The Cook County Strategic Initiatives Team is hosting a free webinar on Thursday, May 15 from 12:00–1:00 p.m. covering the legal and practical side of prime–subcontractor relationships.

Topics will include worker misclassification, written subcontractor agreements, confidentiality, data protection, intellectual property, indemnification, insurance, and how to handle subcontractor breaches — all within the context of Cook County contract compliance.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Illinois Shines | Program Year 2026–27 Informational Webinar: May 21

Illinois Shines is hosting an informational webinar on Wednesday, May 21 from 12:00–1:00 p.m. to walk stakeholders through changes ahead of the 2026–27 Program Year, which begins June 1.

The Illinois Power Agency and its Program Administrator will cover updates to the Program Guidebook and Consumer Protection Handbook, new REC prices and contracts, updated DG and community solar contract requirements, REC reporting, portal development, Prevailing Wage, and the Equity Accountability System, among other topics.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Opportunities

IGNIITE 2026 Funding Opportunity: Concept Papers Due May 28

The U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E) is accepting concept papers for its IGNIITE 2026 program, which supports early-career scientists and engineers pursuing disruptive, unconventional ideas across critical energy technology priorities. Awards of up to \$500,000 are available, with \$10 million in total funding on the table.

[To Learn More](#)

UChicago Summer Internship Program

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](#)

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](#).

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

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

Latest 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.

[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](#)

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 Wymyslowski** Innovation DuPage member onboarding
2. Schedule a meeting with **Anushka Verma** for tech stack onboarding

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
- **Hiba Anjum** - Assistant Program Manager
- **Dan Facchini** - Managing Director

[Member Portal Login Page](#)

[Member Meetup Signup Sheet](#)

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