



GREEN NEWS

The Newsletter for ID's Clean Energy Incubator Program

Coming Up

Innovation DuPage | Clean Energy Incubator Lunch & Learn: May 28

Join Innovation DuPage's Dan Facchini and Arlinda Bajrami for a free lunch and learn hosted by DePaul University's Chaddick Institute on Thursday, May 28 from 12:15–1:00 p.m.

The session will cover how Innovation DuPage's Clean Energy Incubator Program supports clean energy businesses across Illinois — from business development and state funding resources to personalized mentorship. Both in-person (14 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1600, Chicago) and virtual options are available.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

The Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3) | Monthly Webinars: June 3 - December 2

The Illinois Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment (OE3) hosts regular online sessions connecting business owners with the latest financial resources from state, federal, and local programs, as well as funding opportunities from private and community organizations.

Business Development Managers are available to answer questions in English and Spanish, and attendees receive a follow-up email recap of all resources shared. Sessions are not recorded.

Choose one or more dates to attend.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Clean Energy Incubator Workshop | The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right: June 9

The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



Shubha K. Chakravarthy

Tuesday, June 9th, 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.

535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Innovation DuPage members are invited to an investor-led workshop on Monday, June 9 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. This session covers the seven conditions investors look for when evaluating a startup — from identifying a real market problem to aligning capital strategy — and equips founders with the business judgment needed to build a durable, fundable company.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Illinois Green Alliance | Illinois Energy Efficiency Showcase: June 18



The Illinois Green Alliance is hosting its first-ever Illinois Energy Efficiency Showcase on Thursday, June 18 at 320 S. Canal St. in Chicago — a half-day conference highlighting real retrofit and decarbonization projects across commercial, multifamily, and affordable housing properties.

Practitioners from Willis Tower, ComEd, the Illinois Climate Bank, Peoples Gas, and others will share project outcomes, financing strategies, and lessons learned. Attendees will also hear about available incentives and best practices for advancing their own efficiency projects.

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 27 from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Susan Stewart of Stewarts' Cheesecake
Problem Solving Session: Mark Karasek of The Private Directors Association

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

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

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

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 Wymyslawski** 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
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[Member Portal Login Page](#)

Member Meetup Signup Sheet

Innovation DuPage | 535 Duane St. | Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 US

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