



GREEN NEWS

The Newsletter for ID's Clean Energy Incubator Program

Coming Up

POSTPONED

Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program Workshop



The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



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.

Shubha K. Chakravarthy

535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Due to a personal emergency, tomorrow's workshop - **7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right** - will be postponed. All updates will be shared as the team confirms a new date within the coming weeks. We appreciate everyone's understanding and flexibility with the change!



The next Member Meetup will be on June 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Carly Williams of Fitvengers

Problem Solving Session: Claire Brinley of Illinois Climate Bank

Following the Member Meetup, there will be a Marketing 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

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](#)

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](#)

Argonne National Laboratory | Open House: June 27



SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Participate in tours,
hand-on activities,
and demonstrations!**
- Free event
 - Open to the public
 - Registration required



www.anl.gov/open-house/2026
Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more.
Registration opens May 27, 2026



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

Argonne National Laboratory is a
U.S. Department of Energy laboratory
managed by UChicago Argonne, LLC.

Argonne National Laboratory is opening its doors to the public on Saturday, June 27 for a free, family-friendly open house. Visitors can explore world-class research facilities through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and tours — and meet the scientists and engineers behind the work.

For additional information and to put your name on the registration invitation list, please visit www.anl.gov/open-house/2026

Member Tour | Argonne National Laboratory: July 14

Innovation DuPage members are invited to tour Argonne National Laboratory, one of our research partners, on Monday, July 14. This is a unique opportunity to visit one of the world's leading scientific research facilities.

Interested? Reach out to [Hiba Anjum](#), Program Associate, for more details.

Opportunities

Founder Institute | Midwest Startup Ideation Bootcamp: June 29 to July 9

Innovation DuPage is launching a pilot partnership with the Founder Institute to support early-stage members through the ideation phase. Cost is fully

covered by innovation DuPage, and spots are limited.

Participants will refine their business idea, validate concepts with real customer feedback, and get direct input from experienced founders and investors. If you are still shaping your idea and want a clear path forward, this is a strong next step.

Interested? Reach out to [Rob Glaser](#) to secure your spot.

NSF Seed Fund | SBIR/STTR Program Reopening for Submissions

The NSF Seed Fund, the federal SBIR/STTR program, is reopening for submissions next week. This national program provides non-dilutive funding for companies developing high-impact, early-stage technology.

Phase I awards are typically around \$300,000 for R&D, with Phase II funding of \$1M or more to continue development toward market readiness. Illinois-based recipients may also be eligible for IL DCEO matching funds — up to \$75,000 for Phase I and \$250,000 for Phase II.

To get started, complete a [Project Pitch Assessment](#) and submit a [Project Pitch](#). Applicants are notified within one to two months whether they are invited to submit a full proposal.

Need help with your pitch? Reach out to [Jess Wain](#).

MEEA | Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations (FEEBO)

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) offers FEEBO, an 18-hour course covering the principles of energy efficiency and preventative maintenance in commercial buildings. Topics include HVAC fundamentals, lighting, energy conservation, and indoor environmental quality — delivered over three full days or six half days.

The course is designed for those entering building operations, existing facilities personnel, and professionals whose work intersects with the built environment.

Interested? Reach out to [Arlinda Bajrami](#) for more information.

[FEEBO Flyer](#)

RFP | Battery-Electric Ferry Design Services — Rock Island County

The Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District is seeking qualified firms to provide design services, shipyard RFP support, and commissioning

services for a battery-electric small passenger ferry vessel. The selected firm will also identify and specify a compatible charging station and coordinate electrical infrastructure installation requirements.

Proposals due: July 20, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CT

[To Learn More](#)

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](#)

Policy

Illinois Worker Preference Requirement Now in Effect

If your project is funded by State of Illinois grants, a new compliance requirement is now active. Under the **Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act** (30 ILCS 570), contractors on state-funded public works projects must use **at least 90% Illinois-based laborers** during periods of high unemployment.

This requirement was triggered because Illinois unemployment exceeded 5% for two consecutive months. It remains in effect until unemployment drops back below that threshold.

What this means for you: If your project involves construction or public works activity tied to state funding, review your contractor agreements to ensure compliance.

Need a waiver? Exceptions are available if Illinois workers are unavailable, unqualified for the specific work, or if compliance conflicts with federal law. Waiver requests must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation through your grant manager.

Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act: Now in Effect

The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act took effect June 1, 2026. The law creates new opportunities for clean energy contractors and businesses, including:

- Expanded battery storage deployment
- New energy efficiency programs
- A Virtual Power Plant program
- Geothermal network pilot programs
- Stronger protections against solar fraud

Funding and program rollouts will occur gradually as regulatory approvals and program development timelines are met. For more information, refer to the factsheets developed by Elevate.

[CRGA Factsheet](#)

[CRGA Overview](#)

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](#)

Partner Resources

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

Get Your Company Listed on Pitchbook:

Pitchbook is a leading private market database used by investors, VCs, and strategic partners to discover and research early-stage companies. Innovation DuPage is now offering all members the opportunity to be listed under ID's profile — giving your company added visibility and third-party validation as a program participant. This is an opt-in benefit available to all active members.

Interested? Reach out to [Elina Conley](#) to get started.

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 [Hiba Anjum](#) to get them subscribed.

Grant Writing:

Jess Wain — Hobbs & Wain Advancement Partners

Jess 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](#) - Program Associate
 - [Dan Facchini](#) - Managing Director
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[Member Portal Login Page](#)

[Member Meetup Signup Sheet](#)



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