GREEN NEWS

The Newsletter for The CEJA Illinois Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program

ID's InternPlus Program

InternPlus: Hire a Subsidized College Intern

Need extra help with marketing, research, operations, or other projects? Through InternPlus, interns earn $15 per hour and Innovation DuPage covers half, so members pay just $7.50 per hour for up to 20 hours a week, for up to one year.

ID handles recruitment through local colleges and community partners, screens candidates, and refers qualified students for you to interview. You choose the intern who best fits your needs, and ID supports onboarding. Interns also attend monthly career readiness workshops at ID throughout the program.

To get started, click "Find an Intern" on your Member Dashboard in the Member Portal.

Questions? Reach out to **Anushka Verma**.

Coming Up This Week

Business Certification Workshop Series

Our partners at the College of DuPage Business Development Center are hosing a four-part workshop series exclusively for ID Members to guide you through acquiring your Women/Minority/Disability/Veteran Business Certification.

Dates: Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27, and November 3, 2026
Time: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Location: Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 301
Instructors: Colleen Sall, with Andres Blandon and Ileen Kelly

Reach out to **Rob Glaser**, ID Program Manager to get signed up.

Coming Up

CECI Workshop | Brian Keller and Kylie Terpening on the Illinois Shines Program: October 20



Join us at Innovation DuPage for a comprehensive overview of the Illinois Shines Program, the state's solar energy incentive program. Brian Keller and Kylie Terpening will walk through the main project categories, steps to become an Approved Vendor or Designee, and a focused look at the Equity Eligible Contractor pathway, including eligibility, benefits, and how to register. A great session for solar developers, installers, and contractors exploring clean energy opportunities in Illinois.

Register through the member portal today!

ID Workshop: 60-Second Executive Update



Make every minute of your 1:1s and small group meetings count. ID Member Scott Hubbard of Hubbard Communications will teach you the 60-Second Executive™ framework, a simple way to lead with the headline, back it up with only the evidence that matters, and end with a clear next step. It's hands-on, practical, and built for busy professionals.

To Register

UChicago Climate Frontiers: Career Fair and Leadership Forum, October 28

The University of Chicago's Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth is inviting employers to its Climate & Energy Career Fair, part of the Climate Frontiers event. Meet UChicago students about internships and jobs, advertise open roles, and request on-campus interviews. Last year drew 500+ students and 35+ employers. The day also includes a leadership forum with panels on clean energy finance and Midwest climate leadership.

To Learn More

Electrification Coalition | WattWorks EV Leadership Bootcamp: November 5

The Electrification Coalition and the University of Chicago's Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth are hosting a peer-to-peer bootcamp on Midwest transportation electrification. It brings together state agencies, municipal fleet and sustainability managers, and commercial sector leaders. Sessions cover the benefits of fleet electrification, planning and procurement

tools, and policy opportunities for deploying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EVs. Coffee and lunch are provided.

To Register

ID Member Showcase: Meet 40 Members on November 10



Innovation DuPage is hosting its first-ever Member Showcase on Tuesday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn Village Hall. Forty member companies will be on hand to share their products and services, spanning clean energy, AI, consumer goods, food and beverage, and professional services.

Attendees can meet the founders behind these businesses, explore new opportunities, and connect with potential clients, partners, collaborators, and investors.

Register to attend today!

Female Founders Quarterly Meeting: November 12

Join us for our next Female Founders quarterly meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m., hosted by Jules Wilhelm, ID member and founder of Jules Wilhelm Inc. It's a relaxed evening to connect with fellow founders, swap wins and challenges.

New Funding

U.S. EPA | SBIR Phase I Funding Opportunity: Environmental Technologies, Due November 8

The EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I solicitation is open through November 8, 2026. As part of America's Seed Fund, it supports small businesses developing and commercializing environmental technologies, including clean water, air quality, sustainable materials, and circular economy solutions. This year's 10 topic areas include safe collection, transport, and recycling of lithium-ion batteries.

To Learn More

Ongoing Funding

Illinois DCEO | Federal Grant Support Program: Up to $2M in Grant-Matching Assistance

To Learn More

Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund: Financing Resources for Illinois Contractors

CEJJF Contractor Onboarding Portal (FairPath)

Clean Energy Project Form (Survey)

Illinois DCEO: Energy Equity Futures Grant: Funding Opportunity Coming Q3 2026

To Sign Up for Updates

National Energy Improvement Fund: Financing for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Projects

To Learn More

Illinois Climate Bank: Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund

To Learn More and Apply

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

To Learn More and Apply

Opportunities

TrustBank Office Hours at Innovation DuPage

Have a banking question? Join the TrustBank team every other Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., immediately following our Member Meetup, for open Office Hours at ID.

Whether you're looking for guidance on business banking, lending, cash flow, credit, financial planning, or other financial topics, a TrustBank representatives will be available to answer questions and share practical insights and best practices.

No appointment is necessary. Just bring your questions and connect with the TrustBank team after the Member Meetup.

TrustBank™ WHEATON

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

Policy

Illinois Worker Preference Requirement Now in Effect

To Learn More

Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act Now in Effect

CRGA Factsheet

CRGA Overview

Latest Illinois Green Policy Update: June 2026

Read More Here

Partner Resources

The **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)** website includes a page dedicated to current state and federal grant opportunities as well as Grantee resources.

To Access Grant Opportunities and More

Just upstairs from Innovation DuPage is the **Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**, part of College of DuPage's Business Development Center. SBDC advisors provide confidential guidance, training, and resources to start-up and existing small businesses, helping with everything from securing business capital and marketing to commercializing new ideas and developing innovative products and services. Client projects range from early-stage, pre-revenue concepts to established business operations.

To Learn More

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 an 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

ID Mentoring Program:
A flexible, high-impact program that connects CECI members with vetted industry experts for 1:1 mentorship tailored to their needs. Whether you're seeking a one-time conversation or an ongoing relationship, mentors provide guidance, insight, connections, and encouragement while helping you stay accountable to your goals.

Support areas include business development, funding and loans, legal guidance, business planning, marketing, government contracting, and more.

The program is designed to be adaptable and collaborative, allowing you and your mentor to co-create a structure that best fits your journey and level of support needed.

To Get Connected to a Mentor

Grant Writing Support:
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

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.

Newsletter Access:
Want to add a team member or partner to the Green News mailing list? Contact **Hiba Anjum** to get them subscribed.

Legal Support:
CECI 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

Reach out to **Ricardo Magallon** or the **CECI Team** to get started.

ID Team Support:

- **Mike Varon** - Strategic Business Advisor
- **Heather Sattler** - Mentor Advisor
- **Heidi Kuharich** - Program Instructional Designer
- **Ricardo Magallon** - Program Director
- **Hiba Anjum** - Program Associate
- **Dan Facchini** - Managing Director

Member Portal Login Page

Member Meetup Signup Sheet

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

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

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