



# Illinois Green Economy Network

## **FY23 Update**

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Fall 2022 ICCCF0 Conference  
Friday, October 14

# INTRODUCTIONS

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- Administrative team:
  - [Katie Davis](#), Director, College of Lake County
  - [Rob Hilgenbrink](#), Financial Advisor/Treasurer, Joliet Junior College
  - [Tim Gibson](#), Program/Regional Coordinator, Joliet Junior College
  - [Nate Keener](#), Program/Regional Coordinator, Lewis and Clark Community College
  - [Bill Reany](#), Program Manager (Department of Energy grant project), Lewis and Clark Community College

# OVERVIEW

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- Consortium of all 39 Illinois community college districts, formed in 2008 through an intergovernmental agreement, with support from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Governor's Office
- Mission to provide a platform for collaboration among all Illinois community colleges and their partners to drive growth of the clean energy economy and green workforce
- Vision is the Illinois community college system as a global leader in transforming the economy and education for a sustainable future
- Eight areas of focus: building sciences, energy, food, manufacturing, natural resources, transportation, waste, and water
- Managed successfully the implementation of numerous grant-funded sustainability-related initiatives, programs, and projects at Illinois community colleges statewide, totaling over \$30 million

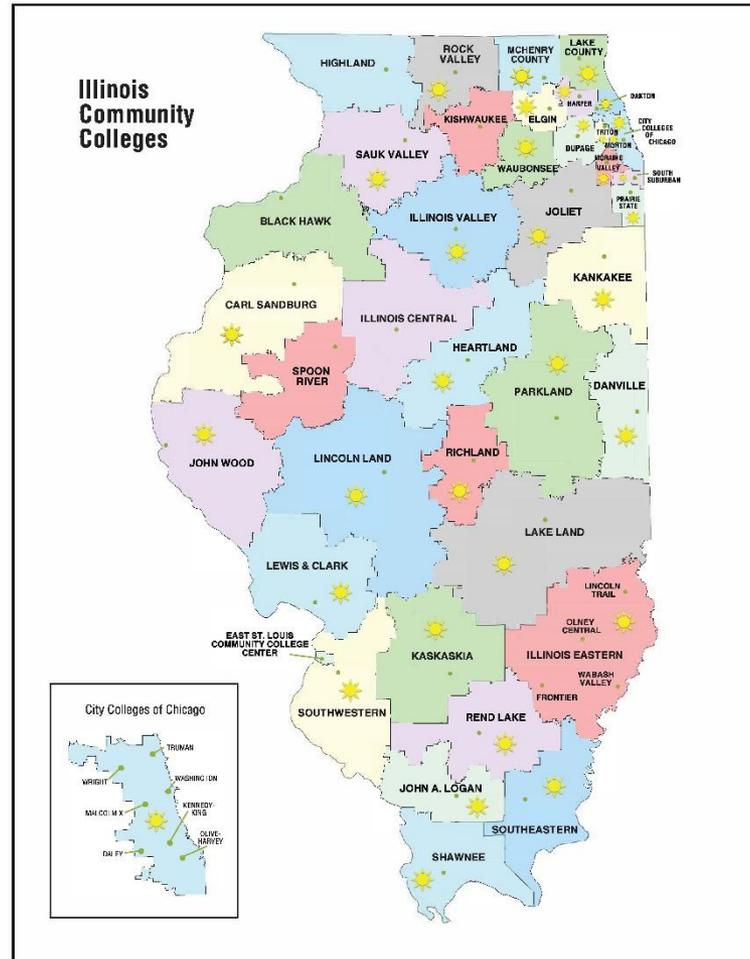
# GOVERNANCE AND ROLES

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- Led by an administrative team that implements and manages network initiatives and programs, as well as provides general operations
- The administrative team receives strategic direction from and reports to a Presidents' Steering Committee
  - Dr. Michael Anthony, Prairie State College
  - Dr. Michael Boyd, Kankakee Community College
  - Dr. Josh Bullock, Lake Land College
  - Dr. Keith Cornille, Heartland Community College
  - Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, Moraine Valley Community College
  - Dr. Clyne Namuo, Joliet Junior College
  - Dr. Ken Trzaska, Lewis and Clark Community College
  - Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board (ex officio member)
- Administrative college is Heartland Community College and fiscal agent college is Joliet Junior College

# MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- Presidents' Steering Committee resumed a dues structure for active membership starting in 2018
- Active membership required for participation in current funding/programs (all colleges eligible and voluntary)
- Currently, 34/39 active members



# FY23 ACTIVE MEMBERS

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- Carl Sandburg College
- City Colleges of Chicago
- College of DuPage
- College of Lake County
- Danville Area Community College
- Elgin Community College
- Harper College
- Heartland Community College
- Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
- Illinois Valley Community College
- John A. Logan College
- John Wood Community College
- Joliet Junior College
- Kankakee Community College
- Kaskaskia College
- Lake Land College
- Lewis and Clark Community College
- Lincoln Land Community College
- McHenry County College
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Morton College
- Oakton Community College
- Parkland College
- Prairie State College
- Rend Lake College
- Richland Community College
- Rock Valley College
- Sauk Valley Community College
- Shawnee Community College
- Southeastern Illinois College
- Southwestern Illinois College
- South Suburban College
- Triton College
- Waubonsee Community College

# FUNDING IMPACT AND PROJECT SUCCESSES

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- Since 2018, IGEN has been awarded over \$11M in funding from grants through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State, and the U.S. Department of Energy
- The majority of all funding received has been provided to colleges for projects related to energy and sustainability: 34 colleges, over 150 projects, totaling about \$9M
- Colleges participating have received between \$5,000 - \$800,000 since then, with an average of \$200,000 total over the five years

# CURRENT FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

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- **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency grant (\$2M)**
  - Appropriated from the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund through Public Act 100-0586
  - Education and training for renewable energy and energy efficiency technology, and for the operations/services of the network
  - Grant period from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- **U.S. Department of Energy cooperative agreement/grant (\$1.25M)**
  - Expanding the solar workforce through the Illinois community college system
  - 5 active college members participating (identified prior to proposal submission in 2018)
  - Grant period extended through December 31, 2022

# IEPA/RERTF GRANT UPDATE

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- All 34 active members receive \$5,000 - \$15,000 per the benefits of membership
- Distributed notice of funding opportunity for additional projects in June 2022
- Best response yet: 31 colleges submitted 66 proposals, totaling \$5M
- Due to overwhelming response, it was a competitive evaluation and review process
- Currently, 32 energy-related projects are being funded at 22 colleges statewide

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

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- 24 colleges created and/or expanded curricula for over 70 certificate and degree programs or courses to include energy efficiency and/or renewable energy, including career pathways into the energy industry
- 21 colleges installed renewable energy/solar projects on campus, totaling almost 2,000 kW, all including a component of demonstration, education, and/or training
- 17 colleges implemented energy efficiency or renewable energy-related capital, equipment, and installation/upgrade projects for campuses as living laboratories, including a component of demonstration, education, and/or training
- 16 colleges are increasing the state's electric vehicle infrastructure by installing charging stations, including integration into campus automotive programs

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

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- 6 colleges offered over 30 campus and community outreach programs/trainings focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency topics
- 5 colleges conducted energy-related feasibility studies and implemented recommendations
- Over 13,000 students trained in energy efficiency and renewable energy-related programs
- More than 40 businesses engaged with the network to increase career pathways into the energy industry
- Based on the U.S. Department of Energy's formula, an estimated 120 jobs were retained as a result of this funding and projects

# PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION

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- Create and facilitate curriculum modules focused on sustainable agriculture programs, including faculty in the process
- Convene Illinois community college faculty site visits and work groups for professional development
- Develop guides and marketing materials for Illinois community colleges to recruit Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women into green job training
- Assist with contractor enhancement to accelerate the growth of employers in the clean energy economy and green workforce
- Assist with partnership enhancement to position IGEN as a leader in sustainability

# PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SMART ENERGY DESIGN ASSISTANCE CENTER

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- Continue the collaborative to assist with net zero education, planning, and support for Illinois community colleges
- Conduct stakeholder education and outreach by hosting two meetings virtually (first one on October 25 at 1:30 p.m.)
- Develop the members-only portal/webpage with additional resources
- Provide individualized technical support for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and net zero planning
- <https://smartenergy.illinois.edu/igen-net-zero/>

# FY23 GOALS

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- Increase advocacy efforts and serve as a thought leader in the space of sustainability, and specifically, with the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) implementation and opportunities for participation at community colleges
- Actively communicate and meet with experts in sustainability to further knowledge and identify future trends
- Identify, seek, and obtain new revenue sources and in areas beyond energy (currently pursuing additional funding for electric vehicle charging stations and solar training)



**QUESTIONS?**

**THANK YOU!**

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