Illinois Green Economy Network

East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting
January 29, 2019
OVERVIEW

- Consortium of all 39 Illinois community college districts, formed in 2008.

- Mission to provide a platform for collaboration among all Illinois community colleges and their partners to drive growth of the green economy.

- 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, manufacturing, natural resources, sustainable food, transportation, waste, and water resources.

- Approach leverages the power of a sustainability network with the deep community connections of individual colleges to expand deployment of clean energy technologies, increase employment opportunities, improve environmental and human health, foster community engagement, and accelerate market competitiveness.
GOVERNANCE/ROLES

▪ Led by an administrative team that implements and manages all network initiatives and programs, as well as provides general operations.

▪ The administrative team receives strategic direction from and reports to a Presidents’ Steering Committee, comprised of six Illinois community college presidents.

▪ Administrative college: Kankakee Community College

▪ Fiscal agent college: Lewis and Clark Community College
HIGHLIGHTS

▪ Successfully managed the implementation of numerous grant-funded sustainability-related initiatives and programs across the state through education, outreach, and training, totaling over $30 million.

▪ 22 Illinois community colleges implemented $1.9 million in energy-saving measures, resulting in 4,899,566 kWh savings.

▪ 17 Illinois community colleges created fifty certificate and degree programs to provide career pathways to jobs in the green economy.

▪ 17 renewable energy projects were installed at Illinois community college campuses or partner facilities, totaling 667 kW.

▪ 500 attendees participated in a community-based solar market development program, resulting in 18 site assessments and 7 completed installations.

▪ 2,000 middle and high school students in 104 classes were educated through the Solar for Schools program.

▪ Over 2,600 attendees participated in 120 energy management trainings.
HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 Illinois community colleges participate in the Illinois Home Performance Equipment Loan Program, assisting professionals by making home energy evaluation equipment available for free.

- All 39 Illinois community college districts participated in a comprehensive analysis of commodity purchasing, energy consumption/use management, and the potential for renewable energy asset development.

- 12 Illinois community colleges statewide installed building energy dashboards on their campuses.

- Organized a 3-day electric vehicle road trip across the state with stops at 11 Illinois community colleges.

- Offered 3 water audit trainings across the state in an effort to increase knowledge about water at Illinois community colleges and reduce water consumption in Illinois by one billion gallons.

- More than 11,000 attendees participated in over 200 smart grid-related events at Illinois community colleges across the state.
CURRENT FUNDING/PROGRAMS

- **Office of the Secretary of State grant**
  - 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

- **U.S. Department of Energy grant**
  - Finalizing grant negotiations process: 3-year grant period
  - Expanding the solar workforce through the Illinois community college system
Initiatives, programs, and projects may include:

- Utilize existing or planned renewable energy installations for demonstration, education, and training
- Regional and statewide energy-related conferences, events, and workshops
- Customized renewable energy and energy efficiency technology-related education and training with industry partners
- Customized energy-related job training with industry partners
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency installation and upgrade projects
- Build upon/enhance current renewable energy and energy efficiency-related courses and programs
- Consultant to assist with implementing solar projects, identifying the best incentives and private partner arrangements
- Update the comprehensive analysis of energy use study of Illinois community colleges
- Determine the feasibility of hydrokinetic projects to expand renewable energy sources
- Integrate best practices in stormwater management to reduce energy consumption and increase renewable energy uses
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANT

▪ Cohort of 6 Illinois community colleges and 3 industry partners participating

▪ Objectives:
  – Address an unmet need by increasing the pool of skilled solar workers, with a focus on veterans
  – Keep pace with evolving needs of the solar workforce by improving programs to be more accessible and industry-driven
  – Strengthen network’s capacity as a statewide resource for solar education, training, and workforce initiatives
QUESTIONS?
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