



Illinois Green Economy Network FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Prior to completion of the FY24 IGEN IEPA Grant Proposal, please carefully read through the FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity and the FY24 Funding Guidelines and Instructions.

The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) was awarded \$2 million in funding for FY24 from the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for education and training in renewable energy and energy efficiency technology. As active members* of the network, Illinois community colleges are eligible to submit funding proposals for activities, programs, and projects related to the grant's scope of work. **The grant period is from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.**

To be considered for funding, please complete, and submit a proposal(s), using the FY24 IGEN IEPA Project Application Template, to igen.administrative.team@igenc.org by Friday, September 1, 2023.

Funding proposals are subject to approval based on criteria through an evaluation and review process, including alignment with the grant's scope of work. Additionally, funding proposals are subject to budget limitations based on the available funding and number of proposals, including funding percentages or portions of projects. **Please carefully read all following information about funding proposal submission, as changes have been made.** Approved funding proposals will be followed by sub-awards from IGEN's fiscal agent, Joliet Junior College. Funding is provided through reimbursement based on activities completion and documented expenditures by June 30, 2024.

The grant's scope of work is as follows (including, but not limited to):

1. Curricula development and other support to build upon and enhance current or create new energy efficiency and renewable energy-related courses and programs (for instance, focused on outreach and recruitment, enrollment, instructor training, demonstration and hands-on equipment, and employer engagement).
2. Energy efficiency and renewable energy-related equipment, installation, and upgrade projects for campuses, with a **demonstration, education, or training component requirement** (for instance, integrating into courses and programs, involving students in installation or management process, or other learning opportunities). Examples include:
 - Electric and/or hybrid vehicles used for automotive laboratories and instructional purposes only. Campus fleet vehicles are not permissible.
 - Energy efficient HVAC or lighting projects that reduce consumption of energy (focus on projects that follow or meet energy efficiency standards rather than deferred maintenance with updated technology)

- Installation of solar (call towers, charging workstations, panels, etc.)
 - Consulting and/or planning services are ineligible for reimbursement.
3. Campus and community energy-related conferences, events, and workshops (for instance, focused on energy efficiency, the energy-water nexus, renewable and solar energy, and other related topics).
 4. Customized energy efficiency and renewable energy-related education and training with industry partners. Examples include:
 - Energy-related education and training for hard-to-reach populations, such as low-income, minorities, returning citizens, and veterans
 - Consumer education and outreach related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, the smart grid, and new/other energy-related technology
 - Re-training workers from the coal industry in energy efficiency and renewable energy
 - Solar panel recycling and repurposing
 5. Energy-related audits or feasibility studies (for instance, energy audits, energy efficiency or renewable energy-related feasibility studies, [retrocommissioning studies](#), etc.).
 - Before proposal submission, all Illinois community colleges are encouraged to first take advantage of the resources and services from IGEN's partnership with the [Smart Energy Design Assistance Center](#) (for energy-related technical assistance, greenhouse gas emissions inventories, and net zero plans).
 6. Energy-related efforts and partnerships for career pathways to grow the green workforce (for instance, business and industry partnerships, career fairs, and other recruitment strategies, etc.).
 7. Additional energy-related innovative and new options for activities, programs, and projects.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the IGEN Team:

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**Active members of the network are Illinois community colleges that have confirmed participation and are paying annual dues. Active membership is required to receive any funding from IGEN. Please contact me for additional information or questions.*