



Fiscal Years 2026-2028

Illinois Green Economy Network
“FY26-28 IGEN EBECC Grant”
Energy Benchmarking and Efficiency at Community Colleges

Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program Infrastructure
Investment and Jobs Act (SEP – IIJA) through the Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Bidders’ Conference: December 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Application Due Date/Time: January 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m.
Submit Application To: igen.administrative.team@igencec.org

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)
FY26 IGEN EBECC GRANT
SUMMARY INFORMATION and INSTRUCTIONS

1. Awarded by: Illinois Green Economy Network
2. Funding from: U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (SEP – IIJA) through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
3. IGEN Contact: david.husemoller@igencec.org or 815-280-6623
4. Funding Opportunity Title: *IGEN EBECC Grant*
5. Eligibility: Must Have Paid FY26 Dues and Signed FY26 Membership Sub-Award
6. Grant Period: Execution of the agreement – March 31, 2028
7. Total Awards to Colleges: \$787,800
8. Number of Awards: 6 Colleges in First Cohort, 3 Additional as Possible 2nd Cohort
9. Award Range: \$106,000 maximum per College
10. Cost Sharing/Matching Requirement: No
11. Indirect Costs Allowed: Yes
12. Consulting and/or Planning Expenses Allowed: No
13. Architectural and/or Engineering Fees Allowed: Yes
14. Closing Date for Applications: January 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CDT
15. Application and **ALL** attachments **MUST BE** submitted as a single *.pdf file
16. Technical Assistance: [IGEN Admin Team](#) (see last page of this document)
17. Other Assistance: [EnergySense Resilience Center](#)

EnergySense Resilience Center is a service unit within the University of Illinois System’s Office of the Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation. EnergySense has been in operation since 2004 when it was initially funded to support the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s energy assessment programs for the utilities. Today, EnergySense provides energy assessments, energy code training, green business program funding and support, and technical support for climate and energy action planning in state agencies and communities. EnergySense works with community colleges, municipalities, communities, state agencies, and other public entities to implement climate action and energy efficiency technical support, outreach and engagement plans, and green business programs. More information is available at this site: <https://energysense.uillinois.edu/about/>

FY26 IGEN EBECC Projects Grant

Background

The Illinois Green Economy Network was awarded \$1.4 million in funding for FY26 – FY28 from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, as allocated by the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) by the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program (SEP).

Eligibility

All Illinois Community Colleges who are active member institutions with paid dues may apply. City Colleges of Chicago and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges may apply separately on a college-by-college basis instead of on a district basis.

Purpose

The IGEN Program provides funding to assist IGEN Member Colleges to develop, manage, and implement a comprehensive community college energy benchmarking program at their institution. Projects must address the following objectives:

1. Analyze historical, current, and future energy consumption behaviors and best management practices;
2. Propose energy reduction strategies; and
3. Offer hands-on analytical educational opportunities for students and community members.

Awarded colleges will receive technical assistance for energy consumption benchmarking as well as energy efficiency and energy reduction planning. The IGEN Program is designed to provide assistive services to financially constrained community colleges throughout Illinois.

Criteria

Applications should be as detailed as possible for the review process. Geographic considerations will be made to ensure statewide distribution of grant resources. Criteria for evaluation and review are based on the following:

• Interest in Energy Benchmarking and Efficiency	10%
• Financial Constraint	20%
• Energy Efficiency	30%
• Environmental Justice Impact	40%
Total	100%

Limitations

Funding of project proposals is limited, based on the total available funds.

Grant Deliverables

Grant recipients will be expected to:

- Carry out all activities as described in the project sub award.
- Submit required programmatic and fiscal reports quarterly and cumulative for the project period, as required.

- Participate in monthly required meetings.
- Track energy consumption using selected benchmarking software.
- Participate with EnergySense/IGEN in the creation of an energy reduction plan.
- Participate with EnergySense/IGEN in development of energy vision, goals, and strategies.
- Cooperate with EnergySense/IGEN in the production of a campus case study.
- Share public relations and marketing materials with IGEN and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, such as photographs, press releases and/or social media posts, typically after the completion of the project. Information may be included in best practice documents created as a result of this grant program.

Directions

To submit your proposal, follow directions at the end of this document.

SCOPE OF WORK

Awarded community colleges will be required to:

- Benchmark and track electricity and natural gas consumption at the college level and at the campus level.
- Benchmark and track electricity and natural gas consumption at the building level, in priority buildings specifically identified for technical assistance
- Install submeters, with support from this program, for priority buildings where building-level metering is not already available.

Baseline levels of energy consumption and GHG emissions will be determined using the Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Start Portfolio Manager, or equivalent software.

Awarded community colleges will be required to:

- Participate in monthly check-in calls with IGEN and EnergySense.
- Develop a comprehensive energy plan and identify energy conservation projects at their institution with assistance from EnergySense.
- Form an energy planning project team.
- Map out organizational and community stakeholders.
- Create and define input and feedback mechanisms.

Colleges who develop a plan in collaboration with EnergySense will receive priority consideration in future IGEN competitive grants.

The IGEN Program will provide funding to:

1. Support the work required throughout the grant award period (not to exceed \$60,000 in salary and benefits).
2. Purchase and install a maximum of two (2) electric submeters and a maximum of two (2) natural gas submeters per college, including the integration with the building automation system (BAS) not to exceed \$46,000.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Engineering fees not to exceed 15% of the project cost reimbursed.

FUNDING INFORMATION

This grant program is administered through an Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency with funds from the U.S. Department of Energy SEP supplemental opportunity. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$787,800. Awards will be \$106,000 in the first cohort with awards in the second cohort dependent upon remaining funding. IGEN expects to make 9 awards through this NOFO.

Anticipated start date for the awards is execution of the agreement. The period of performance is expected to be from the execution of the agreement until March 31, 2028, unless the grantee declines to continue or fails to meet reasonable performance measures that consider program time limits.

Award Details

Approved budget amounts include up to \$20,000 in salary support per fiscal year to assist with the work required. In addition, IGEN will provide up to \$46,000 for the purchase and installation of 2 electric submeters and 2 natural gas submeters per college, and the integration with the building automation system (BAS), plus engineering fees not to exceed 15% of the reimbursed project cost.

Allowable Costs

Costs for personnel directly associated with the implementation not to exceed \$20,000 in the fiscal year and accompanied with time and effort tracking are allowable costs. In addition, cost for submetering equipment, installation, engineering fees, as well as cost of integration with the building automation system not to exceed individual limits specified in the grant agreement. Indirect costs are allowed.

Disallowed Costs

All costs not specified in the “Allowable Costs” section above.

**FY26 IGEN EBECC GRANT
GRANT AWARD APPLICATION**

COLLEGE NAME: _____

COLLEGE ADDRESS: _____

IGEN LIAISON: _____
PHONE AND EMAIL: _____

PROJECT LEAD: _____
PHONE AND EMAIL: _____

BUSINESS/FINANCE CONTACT: _____
PHONE AND EMAIL: _____

FACILITIES CONTACT: _____
PHONE AND EMAIL: _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

(Combine the form on this page with other required attachments for submission)

PROJECT PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Interest in Energy Benchmarking and Efficiency (10%)

Describe the college's commitment to improve energy efficiency. Describe existing plans or strategies for aligning this project with current and future facility's needs. (1 pts)

Which program personnel will be assigned and available for the project. (1 pts)

(This project requires significant access to a cross functional team of people to provide energy and expenditure data; information about maintenance and capital project processes; and staff assisted site visits to view and inspect mechanical rooms, rooftop equipment, offices, and classrooms.)

Describe the college's willingness and ability to participate and invest time, capital, and personnel to undertake energy efficiency retrofits and capital projects with incentive support. (1 pts)

Limit the narrative to a maximum of two pages, excluding the letter of support.

Required Attachment: Management commitment, letter of support from college executive leadership/president position. (1 pts)

Interest	
Scoring Weight	10%
Scoring Factor	Points Awarded
Existing Plans	1
Personnel	1
Capital Investment	1
Letter of Support	1
Total	4

Financial Constraint (20%)

Points awarded will be determined by ranking the colleges by the amount of operating expenditure per student full-time equivalent (FTE), using data provided by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Information does not need to be submitted for this measure as scores will be determined by information provided through ICCB reports. A greater amount of actual expense (per the reported fall semester starting FTE) means a lower score assigned for financial constraint. Information does not need to be submitted for this measure.

Financial Constraint	
Scoring Weight	20%
Rank in State (Most Spent/FTE to Least Spent/FTE)	Points Awarded
1-9	1
10-19	2
20-29	3
30-39	4

Energy Efficiency (30%)

Lower electrical energy efficiency (as measured by the kilowatt per square foot used) results in greater points awarded. Data from ICCB's Tax Revenue and Budget Report will be used to determine this metric. Information does not need to be submitted for this measure.

Energy Efficiency	
Scoring Weight	30%
Rank in State (Least KwH/Sq Ft to Most Kwh/Sq Ft)	Points Awarded
1-9	1
10-19	2
20-29	3
30-39	4

Environmental Justice Impacted Areas (40%)

The Illinois EPA developed a publicly available Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool, Illinois EPA EJ Start, to identify areas of EJ (Environmental Justice) concern in the State of Illinois. Illinois EPA defines an "area of EJ concern" as populations in a census block group or areas within one mile of a census block group, with income below poverty, people of color, or both populations, that are greater than twice the statewide average. EJ Start includes data from the most recent American Community Survey. IGEN will utilize EJ Start to determine the points awarded each community college. You may use the attached maps to evaluate your district. Information does not need to be submitted for this measure.

EJ Minority		EJ Low Income	
Scoring Weight	20%	Scoring Weight	20%
% Minority	Points Awarded	% Low Income	Points Awarded
<= 5%	1	<= 5%	1
<= 10%	2	<= 10%	2
<= 50%	3	<= 20%	3
<= 100%	4	> 20%	4

Directions to Submit Your Proposal:

1. Complete, print and sign the Grant Award Application form (Page 6).
2. Combine the form with all of the attachments and scan the package together into one file.
3. Save the file as a PDF and name it as follows: [college name].[your name].FY26EBECC.Application.
4. Send the file via email to: igen.administrative.team@igencc.org.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions, please contact your primary IGEN team member:

David Husemoller, Executive Director

E: david.husemoller@igencc.org

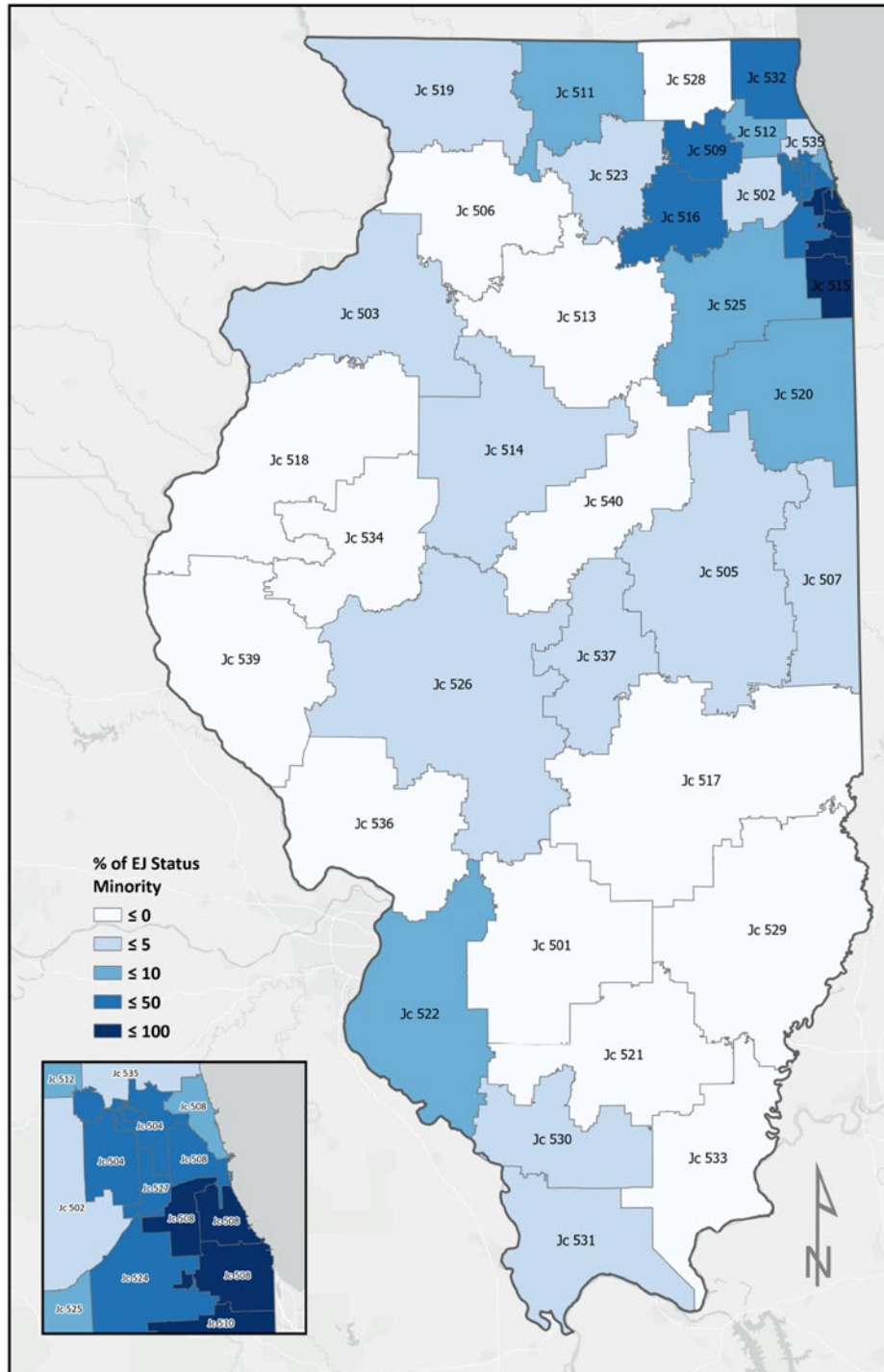
P: (815) 280-6623

Brad McCormick, Program Coordinator/Financial Advisor

E: brad.mccormick@igencc.org

P: (618) 925-0409

Percent of Minority EJ Status within Illinois Community Colleges



Percent of Low Income EJ Status within Illinois Community Colleges

