



Annual Conference

Day One: April 15, 2026

9:45 – Welcome Dr. Kenneth Trzaska – President of Lewis and Clark Community College and Member of the IGEN Steering Committee

10:00 – Welcome Dr. Keith Cornille, President of Heartland Community College and Chair of the IGEN Steering Committee and David Husemoller, Executive Director of IGEN

10:30 - Illinois EPA, Office of Energy

John DeRosa is the Manager of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Energy, where he leads the development and implementation of statewide energy efficiency, renewable energy, and resiliency initiatives. With over 19 years of experience in program development, grant administration, and policy implementation, he has a strong track record of designing and overseeing impactful energy and environmental programs. In his current role, John works closely with partner state agencies and stakeholders to create effective, scalable programs that advance Illinois' clean energy and emissions reduction goals.

11:00 EnergySense Resilience Center at the University of Illinois

Ryan Siegel is an Assistant Director for EnergySense, consulting with entities in Illinois to identify ways to improve the efficiency and reduce costs at their facilities. Ryan heads EnergySense's Energy Code Training Program with over 25 years' experience in the energy field. He holds an electrical contracting license and is preparing his home for its centennial including plumbing, electrical, and HVAC along with converting the original 1-car garage into an art studio for his wife. His two cats help supervise his work.

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Lewis and Clark Campus Tour

1:30 - University of Illinois Manufacturing Workforce Program

Dr. Steven Meneses is an academic entrepreneur and recognized leader in higher education, workforce development, and nonprofit leadership. A first-generation Mexican American college graduate, he is committed to advancing social impact, closing equity gaps, and expanding opportunities for underrepresented communities through inclusive education and career pathways. He serves as Executive Director of the state's Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Program - "Make it in Illinois", leading initiatives that connect education, industry, and workforce systems. Over his career, he has held senior academic leadership roles as Executive Director, Dean, and Associate Vice Chancellor, developing innovative programs that prepare students for careers in advanced manufacturing and technology.

1:50 - Community College Opportunities with AASHE

Kim Hankins is the full time Manager of Sustainability at McHenry County College. Under Kim's direction, Center's initiatives include publication of the Green Guide, a comprehensive listing of recycling resources throughout McHenry County and beyond; the Green Living Expo, held annually in early November, food scrap composting program at MCC and the installation of 12 elective vehicle charging stations. The Sustainability Center hosts and manages the ReUse It corner which offers gently used office supplies to students for no charge. To date the ReUse It corner has saved MCC students over \$140,000. She is an AASHE Board member and part of the first class of AASHE Fellows in 2025.

2:10 - Ameren Energy Efficiency Program

Terisa Lingafelter is the Business Marketing Coordinator for the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program. While her focus is to educate those in the public sector about the program benefits, she has worked with businesses of

all sizes both public and private. Now living in the Springfield area with her husband Travis, Terisa's pride and joy are her grandkids with whom she spends as much time as she can. Working with Ameren Illinois to help leave a cleaner and better planet for the children makes clocking in each day a joy.

2:30 – Break

2:45 - Campus Sustainability Share Out

3:30 - National Great Rivers Research Center, Alton

6:00 – Networking at the Old Bakery Company, Alton

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Day Two: April 16, 2026

8:50 - Illinois Shines

Brian Keller serves as the Public Schools Sector Strategist for the Illinois Shines Program. He leads strategy efforts for project development within the Illinois Shines program's public-school sector and provides comprehensive support to public K-12 schools and community colleges. Brian has over 12 years of expertise in energy efficiency program management for utility clients, with additional experience managing solar and EV charging projects for multifamily properties. Brian is a Certified Energy Manager and LEED Accredited Professional. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Technical Systems Management from the University of Illinois.

9:10 - Community Solar Authority

Dakota Knuckles Malone and Andrew Shaver are co-founders of Community Solar Authority. Their work supports large energy users in understanding & accessing available energy savings through community solar

legislation. Dakota runs a top podcast in the space, and he hosts a live show weekly on LinkedIn, helping public & private clients understand the opportunity available to them to enhance their energy strategy. Over the last 8 years, Community Solar Authority has supported large energy users in unlocking access to \$50M+ in future energy savings.

9:30 - Dimension Energy

Ella Kitterman is a Manager of Partnerships and Community Impact at Dimension Energy, where she works to maximize the local impact of community solar projects and expand access to solar energy savings to those who need them the most. With a strong interest in community-centered development, Ella supports initiatives that drive equitable energy deployment and long-term resilience.

Christina Castillo is a Manager of Partnership and Community Impact at Dimension Energy. Christina focuses on building meaningful partnerships with community organizations to ensure community involvement in projects and Illinois Shines Community Driven Community Solar compliance. Through this role, Christina will be focused on local community involvement, grant making for workforce development and other local organizations, opportunities to sign households up for community solar savings and the creation of community solar coalitions for each project to ensure local voice in decision making.

Charlotte Parker is the Sr. Director of Channel and Community Partnerships at Dimension Energy. In her role, she leads efforts to localize the benefits of Dimension's projects in Illinois. This includes designing workforce development initiatives that complement CEJA's ecosystem; initiating new models to share community solar savings with households and businesses; and working with Dimension's real estate, policy, development, and operations teams to find other win-win ways to bring local partners to the table at each stage of the project lifecycle.

10:15-12:15 - IGEN Staff Presentations and Participant Activities