



A THRIVING CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY FOR ILLINOIS

The Future Energy Jobs Act

Illinois is at a crossroads. We are transitioning beyond dirty fossil fuels, and a growing clean energy economy could build new economic opportunities across the state, reclaim polluted land, and create thousands of jobs. This new vision for Illinois hit a historic milestone when we passed the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) in 2016. The law becomes effective June 1, 2017.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE ENERGY JOBS ACT?

The Future Energy Jobs Act will bring Illinois new clean energy projects, create jobs, and save people money by improving energy efficiency. After years of grassroots organizing driven by thousands of community members, the Sierra Club is proud of this key moment in Illinois' efforts to combat climate change and finally seize the benefits of the clean energy economy for every community.

that individuals, communities, and utility companies that invest in new clean energy will make extra money by putting that power onto the grid and getting the credit back on their utility bill.

PROJECTED NEW ENERGY



2020 → 650MW
2030 → 1350MW



2020 → 1350MW
2030 → 2700MW

KEY BENEFITS

- Channels over \$180 million a year, from utility companies, to build new wind and solar
- Directs \$189 million, plus \$10 million annually, to incentivize solar development and fund job training programs from existing renewable energy funds
- Invests \$5 billion in energy efficiency programs to reduce families' electricity bills
- Reduces 32 million tons of CO2 air pollution by 2030 by diminishing our reliance on fossil fuels

A CLEAN ENERGY BOOM FOR ILLINOIS

Putting us back on track to meet Illinois' clean energy goals, the Future Energy Jobs Act directs a budget from utility companies of more than \$180 million annually for purchasing clean energy produced in Illinois. This means

Rooftop Solar: Installing solar panels on roofs is a great way for buildings to generate their own electricity and save money on bills. Under the new law people who install rooftop solar will receive credit for the power they produce.

Community Solar: Those who cannot install rooftop solar can buy into a community solar project. Community Solar is an installation of solar panels in a community location like a church, parking garage, or other building. People who buy into projects get the same credit back, proportional to their share, as they would if they had that solar on their roof.

Brownfield Solar: Throughout our state land contaminated by pollution is all but unusable. By building solar panels on polluted ground we can reclaim that space for productive use and the Future Energy Jobs Act provides carve outs specifically for these projects.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

One of the biggest achievements of the Future Energy Jobs Act is the new Illinois Solar for All program, a groundbreaking solar and job training initiative to help economically disadvantaged communities in every part of the state — rural and urban. It calls for job training to be incorporated into every solar installation carried out under the program and companies must commit to hiring new trainees for a portion of their low-income installations. This includes programming for 2,000 jobs to be created for people with records and alumni of the foster care system.

ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL

- Incentives for low-income rooftop solar projects
- Helping low-income families subscribe to community solar projects
- Incentives to help install solar for public facilities and nonprofits that serve low-income families
- Low-income community solar pilot projects in partnership with community organizations.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

With changes made by FEJA, Illinois will be a national leader on energy efficiency, creating thousands of jobs, shrinking our state's impact on the climate, and saving Illinoisans money on electric bills. By 2030 ComEd will have to reduce its energy usage by 21.5% while Ameren Illinois will reduce by 16%. To ensure that these benefits are accessible to all communities, these utilities will spend at least \$30 million annually on energy efficiency programs for low-income customers. Due to the extraordinary

benefits of FEJA's energy efficiency programs, the Citizens Utility Board projects each customer in Illinois will see a \$14.80 reduction on their electricity bill each year.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Future Energy Jobs Act becomes effective on June 1, 2017. The process for communities interested in developing new projects will be finalized Summer 2017. From there the Illinois Power Agency and the Illinois Commerce Commission will draft and finalize clean energy and energy efficiency implementation plans by the end of the year. While the first energy efficiency plan will not be approved until the end of 2017, homeowners, municipal governments, and school systems can expect a broader range of programs, rebates, and affordable financing options for construction projects in their homes to reduce electricity bills. Implementation of this historic legislation will change the face of Illinois energy with plans for job training programs and initial clean energy purchases happening as soon as Fall 2017.

GET INVOLVED

The Future Energy Jobs Act will provide communities valuable opportunities for new economic development, community engagement, and job creation. It is never too early to begin engaging residents and business owners in building a clean energy vision. Specifically, developers of community solar projects must identify partnerships with community stakeholders to determine location, development, and participation in the projects. We encourage communities across Illinois to hold neighborhood conversations, engage the local Sierra Club and clean energy businesses, and build a vision for clean energy that addresses local needs.

CONTACT

Caroline Wooten
caroline.wooten@sierraclub.org

Illinois.sierraclub.org
@SierraClubIL

