

COOL² COMMUNITIES

Illinois Cool Communities Ready for 100 Initiative

*Growing Sustainable Climate Solutions and Accelerating a Transition
to 100% Clean, Renewable Energy One Community at a Time*

The Illinois Cool Communities Ready for 100 Initiative** is citizen-led effort helping communities set goals and find local solutions to climate disruption by reducing emissions of carbon and setting the course for 100% clean energy. . To date, over 1000 US communities and over 55 Illinois communities have made a commitment to finding local solutions to climate change by setting goals for reducing carbon pollution, writing climate action plans and implementing local solutions to achieve them. Signing on to the Illinois Cool Communities Initiative represents a community's commitment to stand up to the threat of global climate change with local solutions, including 100% clean energy aggregation, energy efficiency implementation, sustainable transportation, waste reduction, local food, and other approaches that make them better places to live and work.

The goal of the Illinois Cool Communities Ready for 100 Initiative is to reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 (2% per year). An average annual reduction of 2% per year is consistent with the global scientific consensus that emissions of carbon pollution from industrialized countries must be reduced 80% by 2050 to avert the most severe impacts of climate disruption. 2030 provides a manageable, near term planning horizon for communities.

There are three core components of an effective Cool Communities commitment:

Set a Goal - 30% reduction in carbon pollution emissions by 2030.*

Make a Plan - engage your community in identifying strategies that work for you

Monitor Progress - establish a timeline for tracking and reporting your good work and results!

*If your community has already set a goal with a different endpoint than 2030, but roughly consistent with annual reductions of 2%, we welcome your participation.

**Illinois Cool Communities Initiative Ready for 100 is an expansion of the Cool Cities program that now includes counties. Existing Cool Cities programs remain in place without interruption or changes.

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The Illinois Cool Communities Initiative Agreement

(Name of Local Government)

is an Illinois Cool Community that is Ready for 100. We pledge to set the course for transition to 100% renewable energy and will work to reduce our total carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 in our government operations and throughout the community.

We pledge to engage our community in working toward this goal, to monitor and report our progress toward it, and to work with other communities to support climate solutions by sharing our success and supporting collective efforts to address the threat of climate change.

Elected Official: _____

Office: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Staff Contact Assigned to Implement Agreement: _____

Staff Contact Title: _____ Date: _____

Staff Phone: _____

Staff e-mail: _____

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to:
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter Cool Communities Initiative
By Mail: 70 E Lake Street, Suite 1500 Chicago, Illinois 60601
By Fax: (312) 251-1780

For additional information, contact:
Terri Treacy, terri.treacy@sierraclub.org (312) 251-1680 x193
Virginia Woulfe-Beile (Madison, Jersey and Calhoun Counties)
virginia.woulfe-beile@sierraclub.org (618) 462-6802

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ATTACHMENT

Pathways to a Cool Community

Projects and programs initiated by Illinois Cool Communities Ready for 100 Initiative provide improvements to the environment and quality of life as well as leading to long term cost savings for the community. Every Illinois Cool Communities Ready for 100 Initiative is unique to the needs and resources of the local community.

There are virtually countless approaches to reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to 100% clean energy in your community. The attached list of existing programs open to community participation will provide you with some examples of approaches taken by Illinois communities for reaching the Cool Communities goal.

Power your community with 100% renewable energy

- Aggregate the community's energy consumption to provide a green, 100% renewable energy option for residents, often at lower cost than traditional dirty energy. Communities are encouraged to first seek out renewable energy generated in Illinois. (http://gocleangolocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Leading-from-the-Middle_IL-Report_FINAL.pdf)
- Become an EPA designated Green Power Community by sourcing a portion of consumed energy from green sources. (<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities/index.htm>)

Save resources and money by increasing energy efficiency in your community

- Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, installing solar on public buildings, sourcing electric supply to renewable sources through municipal aggregation, investing in Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), and advocating for the development of renewable energy resources;
- Prioritize energy efficiency through building code improvements, benchmarking, retrofitting city/county facilities with energy efficient lighting, and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
- Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances;
- Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system; Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
- Increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; capture methane gas at wastewater treatment plants for energy production.

Green transportation will will make your community a healthier place to live while saving resources and money

- Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to biodiesel;
- Implement incentives and policies to encourage electric vehicle infrastructure and use, with an emphasis on renewable source charging.
- Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for carpooling and public transit;
- Endorse Complete Streets and Bicycle Friendly Community measures to ensure safe environmentally friendly transit options. (<http://cyclesafe.com/complete-streets-bike-friendly-communities/>) (<http://bikeleague.org/community>)

Recycling, Waste Management, Urban Forestry, Local Food Production and Education are all important steps towards reducing carbon

- Increase recycling rates at both the city/county operations and in the community;
- Engage in sustainable waste management practices by prioritizing recycling, composting, and construction/deconstruction diversion programs over traditional landfill waste disposal;
- Educate schools and colleges, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution through newsletters, websites, facebook, etc.;
- Encourage local food production and consumption through farmer's markets, co-ops, urban agriculture, community kitchens and community gardens.
- Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂.

Existing Programs and Resources to Help

In addition, the following emissions reduction energy saving measures are recommended for consideration:

Encourage residents to take advantage of energy efficiency measures in their own homes by using free tools such as:

- CUB Energy Saver program (<http://www.cubenergysaver.com/teams/sierraclub>)
- Energy Impact program (<http://www.elevateenergy.org/home-savings/energy-impact-illinois/>)
- ComEd's Smart Ideas (<https://www.comed.com/business-savings/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Ameren's Act on Energy (<http://www.actonenergy.com/for-my-home/explore-incentives>)
- Nicor gas rebate program (<https://www.nicorgasrebates.com/>)