



# Illinois Green Economy Network

## **Network Overview and Update**

---

Spring 2021 ICCCFQ Conference  
Friday, April 23

# INTRODUCTIONS

- Administrative team:
  - [Katie Davis](#), Director, College of Lake County
  - [Rob Hilgenbrink](#), Financial Advisor/Treasurer, Lewis and Clark Community College
  - [Tim Gibson](#), Program/Regional Coordinator, Independent Contractor
  - [Nate Keener](#), Program/Regional Coordinator, Lewis and Clark Community College
  - [Bill Reany](#), Program Manager (Department of Energy grant project), Lewis and Clark Community College
  - [Dana Wynn](#), Business Engagement Manager (Department of Energy grant project), Lewis and Clark Community College

# CAPACITY AND VALUE



# OVERVIEW

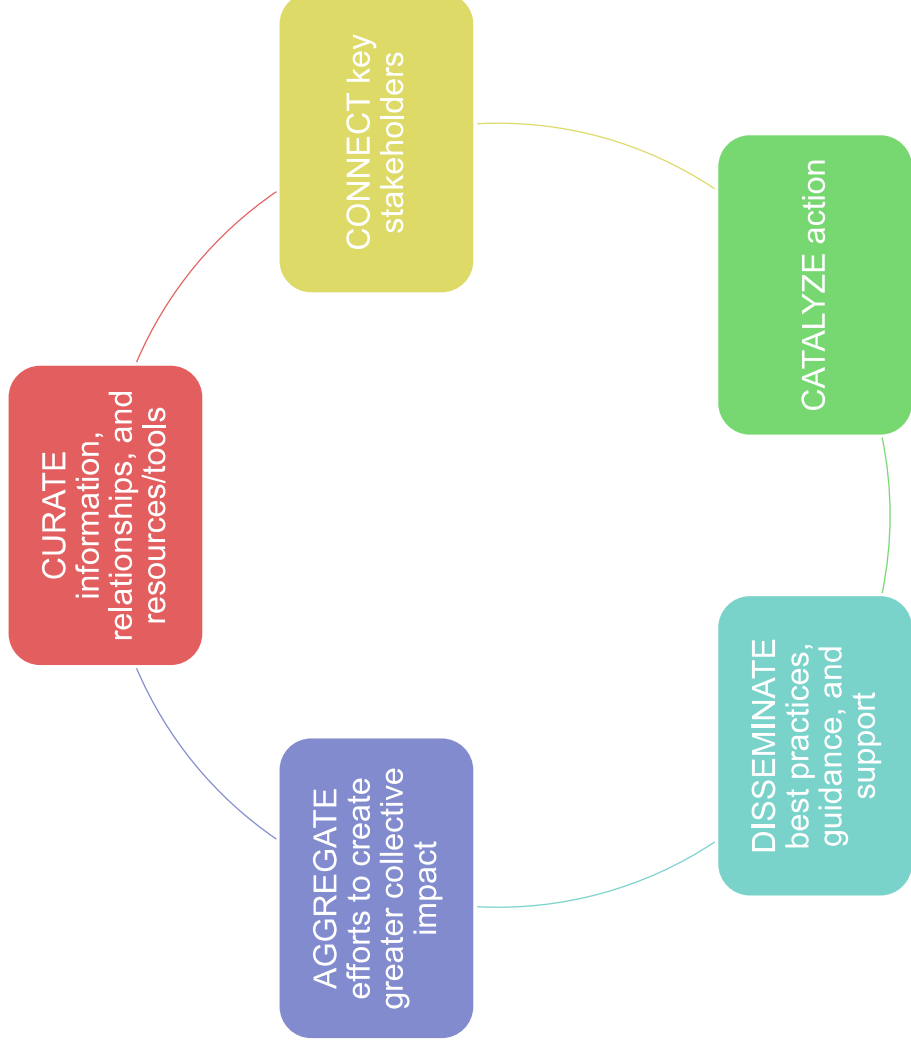
- Consortium of all 39 Illinois community college districts, formed in 2008 through an intergovernmental agreement, with support from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Governor's Office.
- Mission to provide a platform for collaboration among all Illinois community colleges and their partners to drive growth of the green economy.
- Vision is the Illinois community college system as a global leader in transforming the economy and education for a sustainable future.
- Eight areas of focus: building sciences, energy, food, manufacturing, natural resources, transportation, waste, and water.
- Main objectives are to expand deployment of clean energy technologies, increase employment opportunities, improve environmental and human health, foster community engagement, and accelerate market competitiveness.



# FOUR C'S



# FIVE CORE VALUES



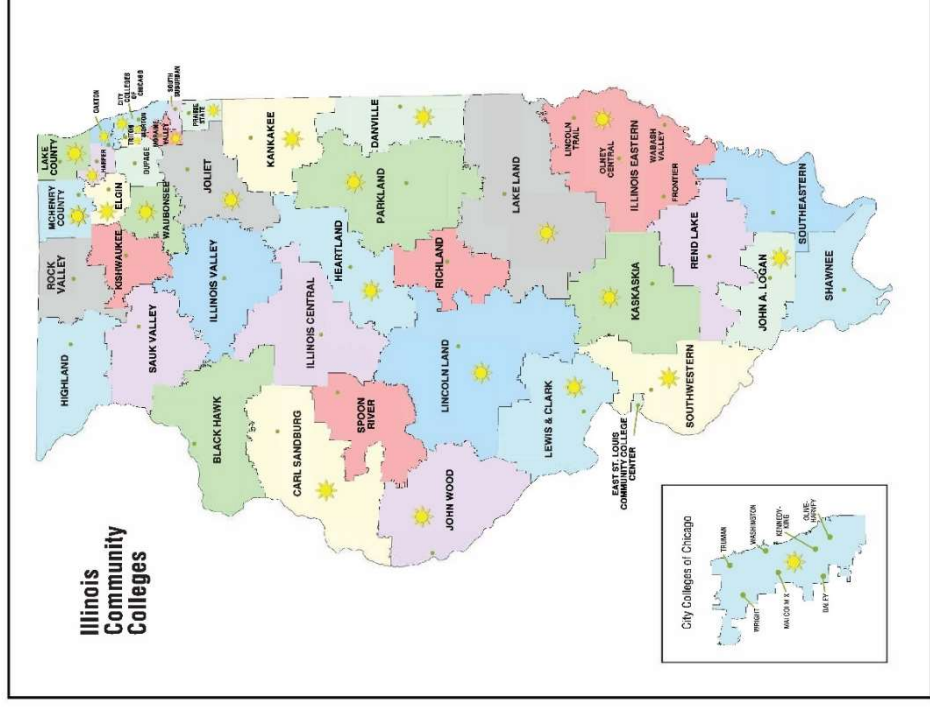
# GOVERNANCE AND ROLES

- Led by an administrative team that implements and manages network initiatives and programs, as well as provides general operations.
- The administrative team receives strategic direction from and reports to a Presidents' Steering Committee.
  - Dr. Michael Boyd, Kankakee Community College
  - Dr. Josh Bullock, Lake Land College
  - Dr. Keith Cornille, Heartland Community College
  - Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, Moraine Valley Community College
  - Dr. Thomas Saban, Prairie State College
  - Dr. Ken Trzaska, Lewis and Clark Community College
  - Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board (ex officio member)
- Administrative college is Heartland Community College and fiscal agent college is Lewis and Clark Community College.
- Managed successfully the implementation of numerous grant-funded sustainability-related initiatives, programs, and projects at Illinois community colleges statewide, totaling over \$30 million.



# MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- Presidents' Steering Committee resumed a dues structure for active membership starting in 2018
- Active membership required for participation in current funding/programs (all colleges eligible and voluntary)
- Currently, 25/39 active members





# 2020 ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Carl Sandburg College ▪ Illinois Eastern Community Colleges ▪ McHenry County College
- City Colleges of Chicago ▪ John A. Logan College ▪ Moraine Valley Community College
- College of Lake County ▪ John Wood Community College ▪ Morton College
- Danville Area Community College ▪ Joliet Junior College ▪ Oakton Community College
- Elgin Community College ▪ Kankakee Community College ▪ Parkland College
- Harper College ▪ Kaskaskia College ▪ Prairie State College
- Heartland Community College ▪ Lake Land College ▪ Southwestern Illinois College
- Lewis and Clark Community College ▪ Triton College
- Lincoln Land Community College ▪ Waubensee Community College



# 2021/FY22 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

---

- Previously, annual membership structure has been on a calendar year
- IGEN Presidents' Steering Committee approved transition of annual membership structure to the fiscal year
- Current membership that began January 1, 2020 will be extended 6 months through June 30, 2021
- IGEN will distribute information about membership benefits and options in spring 2021
- Any continued or new active membership will begin on July 1, 2021

# CURRENT FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

- **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency grant (\$2M)**
  - Appropriated from the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund through Public Act 100-0586
  - Education and training for renewable energy and energy efficiency technology, and for the operations/services of the network
  - Grant period from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
- **U.S. Department of Energy cooperative agreement/grant (\$1.25M)**
  - Expanding the solar workforce through the Illinois community college system
  - 5 active college members participating (identified prior to proposal submission in 2018)
  - Grant period through May 31, 2022 (currently in second year)

# IEPA/RERTF GRANT UPDATE

- All active members eligible for funding and participation
- Distributed notices of funding opportunity in September and November, 2020
- Best response yet: 24 colleges submitted 62 proposals, totaling \$6M
- Due to overwhelming response, it was a competitive evaluation and review process
- Currently, 32 energy-related projects are being funded at 20 colleges statewide

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

- The majority of all funding received has been provided to colleges for projects related to energy and sustainability (25 colleges and over 80 projects)
- 16 colleges are implementing energy efficiency/renewable energy-related capital, equipment, and installation/upgrade projects for campuses as living laboratories, including a component of demonstration, education, and/or training
- 13 colleges are installing renewable energy/solar projects, totaling over 900 kW, including a component of demonstration, education, and/or training
- 13 colleges are creating and/or expanding curricula for over 30 courses and programs to include renewable energy and/or energy efficiency, including career pathways into the energy industry

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

- 7 colleges are increasing the state's electric vehicle infrastructure by installing charging stations, including integration into campus automotive programs
- 6 colleges are offering over 30 campus and community outreach programs/trainings focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency topics
- 5 colleges are conducting energy-related feasibility studies and are implementing recommendations
- Over 1,500 students are being trained in energy efficiency and renewable energy-related programs
- More than 40 businesses are engaging with the network to increase career pathways into the energy industry

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

- Based on the U.S. Department of Energy's formula, an estimated 78 jobs were retained as a result of this funding and projects
- A 12-week course (on-demand, online) is being offered in partnership with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to provide education/training, resources, and tools to colleges interested in installing solar
- A Net Zero Collaborative was created, in partnership with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center, to provide education, resources, and support to colleges interested in climate action plans
- A partnership was formed with the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) and the Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) Center to build upon colleges' efforts to expand the green economy and workforce.



# PERIOD OF TRANSITION

- After a period of transition, the administrative team and Presidents' Steering Committee have been working to improve upon the network's capacity, operation, and structure for long-term sustainability:
  - Bylaws creation/implementation
  - Buy-in from key players
  - Active engagement/participation
  - Communication, inclusion, and transparency
  - Funding stability
  - Advocacy/lobbying efforts
  - Third-party evaluation



# FUNDING FOR FY22

- Due to the efforts of our advocacy firm, Cornerstone Government Affairs and support through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, I am pleased to share that funding for IGEN was included in HB2681!
- If passed, this funding would be appropriated from the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund for education and training for renewable energy and energy efficiency technology, and for the operations and services of the network.
- This is great news, but we will be asking colleges for assistance in legislative support towards securing this.





# QUESTIONS?

# THANK YOU!

**Katie Davis**

Director, Illinois Green Economy Network

[kdavis5@cccillinois.edu](mailto:kdavis5@cccillinois.edu)

[www.igence.org](http://www.igence.org)