Illinois Green Economy Network

FY23 Update

Fall 2022 ICCCFO Conference
Friday, October 14
INTRODUCTIONS

- Administrative team:
  - Katie Davis, Director, College of Lake County
  - Rob Hilgenbrink, Financial Advisor/Treasurer, Joliet Junior College
  - Tim Gibson, Program/Regional Coordinator, Joliet Junior College
  - Nate Keener, Program/Regional Coordinator, Lewis and Clark Community College
  - Bill Reany, Program Manager (Department of Energy grant project), Lewis and Clark Community College
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 clean energy economy and green workforce

▪ 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

▪ Managed successfully the implementation of numerous grant-funded sustainability-related initiatives, programs, and projects at Illinois community colleges statewide, totaling over $30 million
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 Anthony, Prairie State College
  - 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. Clyne Namuo, Joliet Junior 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 Joliet Junior College
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, 34/39 active members
FY23 ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Carl Sandburg College
- City Colleges of Chicago
- College of DuPage
- College of Lake County
- Danville Area Community College
- Elgin Community College
- Harper College
- Heartland Community College
- Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
- Illinois Valley Community College
- John A. Logan College
- John Wood Community College
- Joliet Junior College
- Kankakee Community College
- Kaskaskia College
- Lake Land College
- Lewis and Clark Community College
- Lincoln Land Community College
- McHenry County College
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Morton College
- Oakton Community College
- Parkland College
- Prairie State College
- Rend Lake College
- Richland Community College
- Rock Valley College
- Sauk Valley Community College
- Shawnee Community College
- Southeastern Illinois College
- Southwestern Illinois College
- South Suburban College
- Triton College
- Waubonsee Community College
FUNDING IMPACT AND PROJECT SUCCESSES

- Since 2018, IGEN has been awarded over $11M in funding from grants through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State, and the U.S. Department of Energy

- The majority of all funding received has been provided to colleges for projects related to energy and sustainability: 34 colleges, over 150 projects, totaling about $9M

- Colleges participating have received between $5,000 - $800,000 since then, with an average of $200,000 total over the five years
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, 2022 – June 30, 2023

▪ 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 extended through December 31, 2022
IEPA/RERTF GRANT UPDATE

▪ All 34 active members receive $5,000 - $15,000 per the benefits of membership

▪ Distributed notice of funding opportunity for additional projects in June 2022

▪ Best response yet: 31 colleges submitted 66 proposals, totaling $5M

▪ Due to overwhelming response, it was a competitive evaluation and review process

▪ Currently, 32 energy-related projects are being funded at 22 colleges statewide
HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

- 24 colleges created and/or expanded curricula for over 70 certificate and degree programs or courses to include energy efficiency and/or renewable energy, including career pathways into the energy industry

- 21 colleges installed renewable energy/solar projects on campus, totaling almost 2,000 kW, all including a component of demonstration, education, and/or training

- 17 colleges implemented energy efficiency or renewable energy-related capital, equipment, and installation/upgrade projects for campuses as living laboratories, including a component of demonstration, education, and/or training

- 16 colleges are increasing the state’s electric vehicle infrastructure by installing charging stations, including integration into campus automotive programs
HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND SUCCESSES

▪ 6 colleges offered over 30 campus and community outreach programs/trainings focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency topics

▪ 5 colleges conducted energy-related feasibility studies and implemented recommendations

▪ Over 13,000 students trained in energy efficiency and renewable energy-related programs

▪ More than 40 businesses engaged with the network to increase career pathways into the energy industry

▪ Based on the U.S. Department of Energy’s formula, an estimated 120 jobs were retained as a result of this funding and projects
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION

▪ Create and facilitate curriculum modules focused on sustainable agriculture programs, including faculty in the process

▪ Convene Illinois community college faculty site visits and work groups for professional development

▪ Develop guides and marketing materials for Illinois community colleges to recruit Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women into green job training

▪ Assist with contractor enhancement to accelerate the growth of employers in the clean energy economy and green workforce

▪ Assist with partnership enhancement to position IGEN as a leader in sustainability
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SMART ENERGY DESIGN ASSISTANCE CENTER

- Continue the collaborative to assist with net zero education, planning, and support for Illinois community colleges
- Conduct stakeholder education and outreach by hosting two meetings virtually (first one on October 25 at 1:30 p.m.)
- Develop the members-only portal/webpage with additional resources
- Provide individualized technical support for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and net zero planning

https://smartenergy.illinois.edu/igen-net-zero/
FY23 GOALS

▪ Increase advocacy efforts and serve as a thought leader in the space of sustainability, and specifically, with the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) implementation and opportunities for participation at community colleges

▪ Actively communicate and meet with experts in sustainability to further knowledge and identify future trends

▪ Identify, seek, and obtain new revenue sources and in areas beyond energy (currently pursuing additional funding for electric vehicle charging stations and solar training)
QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!