

STUDENT MENTORS CASE STUDY

ILLINOIS
GREEN



A USGBC COMMUNITY



BACKGROUND

The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Global Leaders program and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Student Sustainability Board reached out in spring of 2018 to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Illinois Green about how the organizations could support their student cohort's interest in energy efficiency. Illinois Green recruited volunteer mentors with expertise in energy efficiency to guide students through an energy assessment and interpreting the results.

OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

Through their energy efficiency program, ComEd engineers performed facility assessments with facility managers at participating schools. Following the assessments, Illinois Green volunteers helped students understand the results, and mentored students on energy efficient lighting, HVAC systems, operational activities, and presenting the information to their school administration. Students were empowered to make suggestions about operating procedures (like turning off lights or adjusting temperature schedules) and share point-of-sale lighting rebate programs to their principals and facility managers. Three student groups completed the process and shared their recommendations with their principals. One student was even asked to share his presentation with the broader school community!

This was a great opportunity for Illinois Green to get involved with CPS schools, and create a mentoring program for energy professionals and high school students. Based on the experiences of the mentors and mentees, Illinois Green hopes to continue to offer mentoring programs for students in the future.

"The best part [of being a mentor] was seeing how engaged and enthusiastic Raymond was about energy efficiency! That was inspiring to see."

*- Brian Yeung, Mentor
Energy Engineer at Seventhwave*

"When we were drafting the presentation, I gained some great insight into how to make the energy efficiency program sustainable - not just through project implementation but by engaging school culture as a whole."

*- Raymond Zhen, Student '19
Whitney Young Magnet High School*

Schools Involved:



ComEd facility assessment.



Raymond Zhen (class of 2019) presenting information to school administration.