

# CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE CASE STUDY



## BACKGROUND

The Illinois Green Alliance and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) partnered with the Chicago Urban League in 2017 to join the BIT Building Pilot program, a sustainable building operations program run by Southface (more detail below). Throughout 2018, Illinois Green, EDF, and the Chicago Urban League's Green Team have been reviewing background information and creating plans to work towards progress on the 16 BIT Best Practices.

## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

**BIT BUILDING AND GREEN TEAM:** Chicago Urban League created a Green Team in 2017 when they joined the BIT Building Pilot program to help follow the program. BIT Building is a framework that encourages the adoption of 16 sustainability best practices in existing buildings, and is designed to empower facilities staff to improve building performance, operations, and maintenance.

**ENERGY STAR:** In early 2018, Illinois Green and EDF helped the Chicago Urban League set up an ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager account, and trained members of the Green Team to track energy and water data using their monthly bills.

**FACILITY ASSESSMENTS:** The Green Team also worked with Elevate Energy/ComEd and WSP to conduct pro-bono energy and water assessments (respectively) to better understand where they could save on their utility bills.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Illinois Green and EDF are also helping the Urban League share their sustainability story with staff and the broader community. In September 2018, the Urban League hosted an Energy Resource Fair for their staff to learn about energy efficiency programs from ComEd, Peoples Gas, CEDA, and others. The Director of Facilities also joined Illinois Green at their Energy Efficiency Idea Exchange Workshop in December 2018 to talk about their sustainable operations goals and progress.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In 2019, the Urban League Green Team will be conducting an air quality assessment with one of Illinois Green's volunteers, and will be hosting additional Energy Resource Fairs for the community. There is also interest to look at green cleaning and green procurement policies. Throughout the next year, the Green Team hopes to grow and work to document their continued progress on the BIT Building Best Practices.



Chicago Urban League Green Team meeting with members of the Urban League, Illinois Green, and EDF.



Elevate Energy/ComEd facility assessment, reviewing the mechanical systems.



Energy Resource Fair, September 2018.