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GREEN
ALLIANCE

2021 Year in Review

Advancing green buildings & sustainable communities

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A Message from our Board Chair

In 2021, we launched a new strategic plan that will lay the foundation for net zero buildings across Illinois.

We've made immense strides in educating building professionals, advancing critical climate policy, and bringing tools and technologies to existing buildings across the state.

This year, I'm looking forward to accelerating growth in green building and engaging our community in celebration of Illinois Green Alliance's 20th Anniversary.

The building industry has rapidly advanced since 2002, but we don't have 20 years to implement the high-performance technology we need to decarbonize the built environment and prevent the worst effects of climate change.

No one is better poised to take the necessary action to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon in buildings than building professionals.

I'm encouraged by the passion and dedication of our community members who have a relentless focus on bringing high performing, healthy buildings to everyone in Illinois.
2022 is the beginning of the next 20 years of the green building future we need.

I am excited to share opportunities to engage in our 20th Anniversary Campaign and our strategic plan to advance net zero buildings in Illinois. I encourage you to get involved with Illinois Green by sharing your expertise and making connections that move our industry forward.



Sincerely,

Keara Fanning

Board Chair, Illinois Green Alliance
Senior Director, ESG, Link Logistics Real Estate

2022 Board of Directors



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*Strategic Advisor: **Jon Cheffings** | SCC&M*

2022 Auxiliary Board

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Prachi Sharma | Slipstream

Amelia Sisk | Resource Innovations

Cameron Small | Salas O'Brien

Laura Turner | Waypoint Energy

Our Strategic Plan: 2021 – 2025

To combat climate change in Illinois, it's time we made net zero buildings feasible, affordable, and so commonplace that every building in Illinois is net zero by 2050.

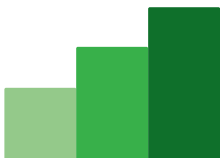
Mainstreaming the technology and building methods, whether new or existing, will not be easy but **no one is better positioned to make it happen than green building professionals.**

To advance our 2050 vision, we must act now to mainstream the technologies and building methods that make net zero possible for new and existing buildings. That's why, over the next five years, we will build on our experience promoting Carbon Drawdown strategies in the built environment by:



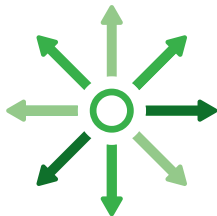
Educating architecture, engineering, and construction professionals

to ensure there are at least 100 AEC firms who have the expertise to use net zero building methods in their work and can help us raise awareness about their value with building owners and policymakers.



Removing barriers

by providing information about the technical, financial, social, and policy roadblocks to net zero adoption and passing at least two major new laws that help to overcome these barriers.



Demonstrating it can work everywhere

by collaborating with people in historically underinvested communities where building types are often viewed as not possible to retrofit to net zero (schools, community buildings, affordable housing, etc.) By piloting programs that showcase this is feasible in 100 buildings around Illinois, we can better make the case for policies that help these buildings in more places take action.

Advancing our Strategic Plan

2021 Highlights

1

The Climate & Equitable Jobs Act was passed in Illinois.

This victory is the result of three years of critical advocacy and grassroots engagement by the **Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition**, a network that includes Illinois Green.

2

Over **30 schools** signed on to join the 2021-2022 cohort of the Illinois Green Schools Project.

Together with nearly **50 Green Schools Mentors** from our community, they will implement sustainability projects in 2022.

3

The Neighborhood Power Project is engaging **15 building participants**.

This program provides sustainability operations support and retrofits to community-based organizations. Our first case study from this program featured Family Matters, a community center in Rogers Park.

4

Illinois Green volunteers gave over **2,000 hours** of their time and expertise to advancing green buildings and strengthening our community.

5

The **Illinois Green Alliance Net Zero Honor Roll** was launched.

This inaugural list, presented at Limelight, highlights all the projects in Illinois certified or working towards net zero.

Get Involved!

- ☐ Participate in an Illinois Green volunteer program.
- ☐ Learn more about how building professionals can implement CEJA.
- ☐ Become a member and show your commitment to advancing green buildings.
- ☐ Share your net zero project to be highlighted on the Honor Roll.

Strategic Plan in Focus

Education & Engagement

2021 Impact

73

programs, trainings,
and events

160

program speakers

3,600

event attendees



Top Education Events in 2021

- Electric Home New Construction 101
- How a Frank Lloyd Wright Home Found its Path to Net Zero
- WELL Chicago! A Tour of WELL-certified Commercial Offices
- Heat Pump Palooza
- Equity — From Building to Community

Get Involved!

- ☐ Attend an education event — most Illinois Green webinars are **free** in 2022.
- ☐ Catch up on our education programs with the **on-demand webinar library**, free to members.
- ☐ Shape our education programs — join the Programs Committee, submit an RFP, or connect us to speakers.



A special thanks to our 2021 Programs Committee volunteers, who make this work possible:

Elena Savona, Jenn Allen, Taylor Callahan, Anjana Dalal, Thomas Dietz, Isaac Elnecave, Margaret Garascia, Vicki Lezon, Patty Lloyd, Jason Meyering, Iwona Mroz, Rachel Starr, Monique Taylor, Jim Topor, and Damon Watson.

Strategic Plan in Focus

Green Building Policy



200

organizations, including Illinois Green, helped pass the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. This nation-leading law delivers on the goal of a carbon-free power sector by 2045, increases the Illinois Solar for All program five-fold, and extends electric efficiency programs beyond 2030. The victory will mean a demand for more sustainable buildings and is the result of critical advocacy by the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition.



90

people attended a panel discussion hosted by Illinois Green Alliance and the Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition to demystify high energy performance buildings and incremental costs in the affordable housing sector. This webinar built support for updates to the Illinois Qualified Allocation Plan to better incentivize sustainability in affordable housing.



2

Illinois Green staff were appointed to the City of Chicago Decarbonization Working Group.

Looking Forward

The City of Chicago will release its Climate Action Plan and the recommendations from the Building Decarbonization Working Group in 2022.

These action-oriented reports will give focus to how building professionals can support future policy development and implementation.

Get Involved!

- ☐ Learn how CEJA affects the building industry and commit to supporting implementation of the law.
- ☐ Connect with Illinois Green and learn how to share our expertise as a building professional to support codes & policies.

Strategic Plan in Focus

Existing Buildings & Community

Illinois Green Schools Project



The Illinois Green Schools Project is a challenge for K-12 schools to devise and implement low to no-cost sustainable practices. Participating schools gain access to tools, resources, and a Green Schools Mentor.

In spring 2021, **10 schools completed projects**, like implementing student-led composting programs, writing grants for educational solar panels, and designing and building herb gardens.

Spring 2021 Impact



Now in its second year, **over 30 schools** have signed on to implement a project in the 2021-2022 school year.

Neighborhood Power Project



The Neighborhood Power Project provides both pro-bono consulting services and grant money for **identified retrofit opportunities**. This program is a partnership between Illinois Green, Elevate, and EDF.

15

community-centered organizations, spanning **11 Chicago neighborhoods**, are currently enrolled in the program.

Participant Highlights

Family Matters

Rogers Park

This community center in Rogers Park has upgraded their water heater, insulated boiler pipes, and replaced old lightbulbs for efficient LEDs.

DishRoulette Kitchen

Pilsen

This small business incubator supports restaurants from the ground up. They plan to focus on waste management solutions for their commercial kitchens.

Get Involved!

- Become a Building Mentor — both our Green Schools Mentor & Sustainable Facilities Mentor Programs recruit in summer 2022.
- Start your peer-to-peer fundraising campaign for the Illinois Green Schools Project! More information coming in fall 2022.

2021 Outstanding Volunteers



Patty Lloyd

The Heart of Illinois Green Award

Patty Lloyd has contributed over 10 years of dedicated volunteer service to Illinois Green and the green building community resulting in a huge breadth of engagement and commitment to our organization and its mission. She is truly a one-in-a-million volunteer that keeps on giving to the advancement of green building best practices not only in Illinois, but across the country. Patty has supported our organization through multiple committees, boards, and mentor programs. We cannot thank Patty enough for her passion, drive, and attention to improving our organization and advancing our mission.



Lindsay Buckwell

2021 Outstanding Volunteer

Lindsay has volunteered her time and expertise on the Auxiliary Board for the past several years. As the Networking Subcommittee lead, she coordinated in-person and virtual events that created valuable touchpoints for our community. Additionally, her support on the Women in Green Building Breakfast planning committee helped create an engaging virtual event and uplifted important voices in the industry. We are so thankful that Lindsay has chosen to spend her time investing in our community.



Brian Meade

2021 Outstanding Volunteer

Brian gave his time in the inaugural cohort of the Illinois Green Schools Project through his participation as a Green Schools Mentor. His support and guidance has been critical to engaging staff and students at Uplift Community High School in not only envisioning a sustainable school building, but also exposing students to careers in architecture and sustainability and hands-on learning to make that vision possible. By sharing his mentor experience via blog posts, in-person at Limelight, and with the rest of his firm, it has inspired others to get involved in the Illinois Green Schools Project.

2021 Outstanding Volunteers



Jason Meyering

2021 Outstanding Volunteer

Jason has been a dedicated member of the Programs Committee since 2018. He was crucial in supporting our shift to virtual programming back in 2020, and in 2021 he continued these efforts through leadership and support on a number of programs. In addition, he has lent his support to John Barry Elementary School through the Illinois Green Schools Project and Illinois Green Ribbon Schools. He is always stepping in to help, and we so are lucky to have him engaged with us.



Thomas Olmsted

2021 Outstanding Volunteer

Tom has given his time and expertise as a Sustainable Facilities Mentor for the past two years. His outreach, coordination and resourcefulness kept everyone engaged over the past year – during a very difficult time to do so. He created valuable touchpoints to move exciting sustainable operations work forward with a building that is a true asset to the community. His continued support with Marillac St. Vincent throughout the Neighborhood Power Project team engagement has been invaluable. We can't thank Tom enough for being such an amazing volunteer.



Brandon Pieczynski

2021 Outstanding Volunteer

Brandon has served as the co-chair of the Auxiliary Board for the past two years. His organization and coordination of the Auxiliary Board has been vital to the success of the group and he has been key in the success of the Auxiliary Board events. Brandon is always looking for ways to improve the committee and drive us forward. We greatly appreciate his time, effort, and passion over the past several years of his volunteer service.

Our New Look

Launching spring 2022, this new logo was designed by volunteer Brad Taylor, creative director at Ten35. Along with the new look comes a refreshed website and easier-to-use membership system.

White lines create an organic grid through the state representing the widespread network of green building experts and community leaders involved with Illinois Green.

Multiple shades of green represent the full spectrum of sustainable building actions, practices and education we support.

The state silhouette in green brings our brand name to life in a simple yet memorable way.



Get Ready to Update Your Profile!

Launching in early 2022, our new membership system comes with an all-new member directory. Find new connections and show off your high performance project expertise by updating your profile in the new system. An email with instructions for updating will arrive in your inbox soon!



**ILLINOIS
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