Illinois Green has always been about people — the passionate building professionals effecting change in the built environment.

Our members represent every perspective in the building industry — from designers to electrical engineers, developers, building operators, and many others committed to sustainability. We’re united by a shared belief in better buildings for everyone, and each member brings their unique expertise to the conversation.

I am looking forward to this term, and I am honored to be the 2023 Chair of the Board of Directors for Illinois Green Alliance as we make great strides to decarbonize Chicago and the State of Illinois! As we reach the halfway point in our 2021-2025 strategic plan, we have a robust strategy in place to accelerate and solidify Illinois Green’s place in our market, lead lasting change in new ways, and create the positive impact that we want to see in the world.

Illinois Green has long been the local organization most aligned with my professional career, and I would like to give back to it in the most meaningful way I can – by guiding its future growth and strategic direction. We are at a critical moment for sustainability. With efforts around carbon drawdown, green infrastructure, EDI, resilience, and health & wellness continuing to mature across our industry, we nonetheless face unprecedented obstacles, and are pressed by an urgency never experienced in the past. It is time to double down our efforts to ensure that we continue to reach new audiences, grow the depth of expertise of practitioners, impress upon policy makers and other influencers, and quickly move beyond the “sustainability status quo.”

There is so much momentum in our industry this year. I hope you will join Illinois Green and our community of passionate green building professionals, growing and sharing their expertise to make buildings better places to live, work, and play. We’re not backing down on the biggest opportunities to tackle climate change in Chicago and Illinois, and we need your support as we implement our biggest project yet — a building decarbonization hub for Chicago.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our many education and networking events, and I, along with the staff, are motivated by the dedication of my peers in the industry.

John Mlade | 2023 Board Chair
Director, Wight & Co.
Thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors!
These sustaining partners in our mission ensure an equitable and resilient building environment for all through their support.

Thank you to our Leadership Circle Members
Leadership Circle Members go above and beyond in providing financial support for our education, policy, and existing buildings engagement programs. As large donors, they are demonstrating their commitment to our mission of ensuring green buildings and sustainable communities for all.

Our 2023 Leadership

2023 Board of Directors
Kelly Adighije | Baumann Consulting
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Lindsay Buckwell | Evergreen Consulting Group
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2023 Leadership Circle Members
Tom Bassett-Dilley | Tom Bassett-Dilley Architects
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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 2022 Highlights

1. We hosted the Getting to Zero Illinois Summit.
   This half-day education workshop engaged over 120 professionals on the trends, obstacles, and technologies for net zero buildings specific to Illinois.

2. Over 40 schools joined the 2022-23 cohort of the Illinois Green Schools Project.
   Together with nearly 50 Green Schools Mentors from our community, they will implement sustainability projects in 2023.

3. The Building Decarbonization Recommendations Report for Chicago was released.
   These 26 recommendations were designed with key stakeholder input from 2 Illinois Green staff and several Illinois Green members. Among the recommendations are a building performance hub.

4. Green buildings are making headlines! Illinois Green’s programs and leaders were featured in the Chicago Tribune, WTTW, and Crain’s Chicago Business.

5. Illinois Green members had the opportunity to tour all 3 net zero verified buildings in Illinois.
   Two buildings were added to the Net Zero Honor Roll — Illinois Green’s list of net zero buildings in the state.

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

2022 Impact

- **61** programs, trainings, and events
- **4,000** event attendees
- **101** program speakers

**Highest Attended Education Events in 2022**

- Building Decarb Tech Series: Modeling Deep Commercial Retrofits
- Chicago All-Electric Homes Webinar + Open House
- Decarbonizing Enterprise Real Estate with Large-Scale Renewables
- Heatpumpification of Buildings: Lessons Learned & Practical Considerations
- Equity & Green Buildings: What You Need to Know About CEJA
- Energy Codes: The Key to Accelerating a Net Zero Future

**2022 Top Program: Heatpumpification of Buildings**

Over 470 people registered for this program in 2022’s most buzzed about HVAC technology: heat pumps.

The session featured 4 panelists, including homeowners, developers, designers, and contractors together to evaluate heat pump applications in single- and multi-family buildings, especially affordable housing. Attendees learned about challenges to market adoption, design decisions and installation barriers, and how to look at a full-cost perspective of this critical climate technology.

**What’s Next for Green Building Advancement**

In 2023, we plan to launch a High-Performance Buildings Hub that will provide critical training and resources to key stakeholders, ensuring that Chicago and the region can meet aggressive climate action goals within the buildings sector, while building an inclusive green economy.

**Spotlight on Net Zero Buildings**

Three buildings in Illinois received net zero energy verification between 2021 and 2022. In 2022, Illinois Green members had the opportunity to tour all 3 buildings and learn from the project teams during our Getting to Zero Illinois Summit. We hope to tour many more projects both in construction and after verification in the coming year.

**2 Buildings in Illinois were added to the Net Zero Honor Roll**

13 buildings are on the Watch List - projects designed for net zero but not yet verified.

**Techny Prairie Activity Center**

Northbrook, IL

- **Designer:** Wight & Co.
- **EUI:** 0 and dropping
- **44,100 sq ft**
- **16% window-to-wall ratio**
- **PHIUS 2015+ and Source Zero certified**
- **312 kW on-site solar array**
- **Recipient of Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant**

**Carroll Community Center**

Oak Park, IL

- **Designer:** Tom Bassett-Dilley Architects
- **EUI:** of -4, producing ~9,600 kWh more energy than it consumes annually
- **All-electric retrofit of a 1920s building**
- **PHIUS+ 2018, Source Zero certified**
- **Powered by a grid-tied solar PV array**
- **Recipient of Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant**

Thank you to our 2022 Programs Committee Members!

The Programs Committee is a group of volunteers who lead the selection, development, and implementation of Illinois Green Alliance’s education programs.

Tom Dietz, Jill Ackermann, Jennifer Alvarado, Wayne Beals, Brian Burgess, Anjana Dalal, Allen Dusault, Mohammad Heidarinejad, Damon Henrikson, Chelsea Lamar, Jason LaFlaur, Jason Meyering, Daniel Moring, Iwona Mrz, Janet Olson, Sophia Seol, Aditya Singh, Jed Starner, Rachel Starr, Alex Tompkins
**Strategic Plan in Focus**

**Clean Building Policy**

In the first year following the passage of the landmark Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in Illinois, we’ve continued to implement the energy efficiency and clean energy policy goals set by the law, playing a leadership role in the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. We’ve focused in on creating opportunities for building professionals to advocate for green building policy, like the 2022 Chicago Energy Transformation Code to help advance more building electrification, passed in October 2022. In addition, several Illinois Green Alliance members were appointed to the Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council to help develop a model stretch building code.

With momentum around a building performance standard, stretch code, and clean buildings ordinance, we need to ensure building professionals are involved in the conversation.

**Priority Policies in 2023:**

**Existing Buildings: Building Performance Standard (BPS)**

As part of the National BPS Coalition, the City of Chicago has committed to proposing a BPS by Earth Day of 2024. In developing a BPS, Chicago should establish targets for reduced energy use and onsite greenhouse gas emissions for buildings over 25,000 sq/ft. and require that buildings meet the standard by 2040 with interim emissions reductions targets set in between.

**New Construction Buildings: Set Emission Standards**

This policy will phase out harmful emissions in all newly constructed buildings and deliver improved health, climate, and economic outcomes throughout the city. Taking action is key to achieving Chicago’s 62% carbon emissions reduction goal by 2040 while also alleviating the utility burden on Chicagoans and creating workforce opportunities for all Chicagoans in the clean energy economy especially communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Drastically reducing fossil fuel combustion will also improve the health and safety of residents.

**Spotlight on Solutions:**

**Mayor’s Building Decarbonization Recommendations Report Released**

In October, the City of Chicago Mayor’s Office released the Building Decarbonization Working Group Report. The 26 equity-focused policy and program recommendations center on new construction design, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and building electrification. These recommendations set the course for bold building decarbonization action along with lowering the economic burden for residents and businesses.

Working Group members appointed by Mayor Lightfoot included several Illinois Green Alliance members as well as Illinois Green’s Executive Director Brian Imus and Associate Director Katie Kaluzny.

Advancing these recommendations are critical to advance Illinois Green’s mission of bringing net zero buildings to all communities in Illinois. Recommendations include a City policy to phase out fossil fuel burning equipment in all new buildings and major renovations and the adoption of a Building Performance Standard for most existing buildings that establishes energy performance targets. In addition, there is a call to create a resource center to engage building owners and others in the building industry with technical assistance and guidance on financial resources to ensure successful and cost-effective implementation of the various policy recommendations. These recommendations not only will reduce pollution but are key to equitably improving the health and resiliency of every Chicago neighborhood. Even more meaningfully, these recommendations are truly community-based thanks to the inclusive and innovative working group process that considered perspectives from so many different stakeholders.

Illinois Green is eager to engage our members into turning these recommendations into actions and policies. This report is a critical step forward in outlining the necessary steps for equitable and efficient buildings in all communities.

**Policy Brief:**

**The 2022 Chicago Energy Transformation Code**

The 2022 Chicago Energy Transformation Code, passed by city council in September 2022 is a tremendous advancement for energy efficiency in buildings. The code goes beyond the 2021 IECC baseline by adding key advancements that make meaningful steps towards advancing building electrification. Chicago is one of the first cities in the U.S. to make updates to the code more stringent than the IECC baseline.

The code includes four key advancements that contribute to building decarbonization & electrification:

**Electric-Ready Residences**

New residences with gas-fired appliances are required to be built with the electrical capacity and necessary wiring to switch to all-electric appliances in the future without opening walls or upgrading electrical service.

**Solar-Ready Commercial**

New low-rise commercial buildings, such as warehouses, are required to be designed and built to support current or future installation of solar panels.

**Smart Technology**

The code incentivizes the use of heating and cooling equipment that is grid-integrated to reduce demand during peak times.

**Alternative Compliance Paths**

Two building standards are recognized as alternative compliance paths to the code: the 2021 Phius Standard and the gold and emerald certification levels for the 2020 National Green Building Standard.

Why the code matters:

The Chicago Energy Code has been regularly updated since 2001 — these latest advancements will future-proof new construction and catalyze building electrification across the city. This advancement and the new baseline creates meaningful opportunities and incentives for energy efficiency and reduce the carbon impact of the City’s building stock.

Pictured right: HPZS’s Yannell House - An all-electric home that is the first PHIUS home renovation in Chicago. Photo by Sarah Godbee
Illinois Green Schools Project

Strategic Plan in Focus

In the 2021-22 school year, faculty, staff, and community members from 29 schools participated in the second cohort of the Illinois Green Schools Project. Participating schools receive educational tools, resources, and support from a Green Schools Mentor (a volunteer from Illinois Green’s community) to guide each school’s sustainability projects. This year’s optional project theme was “Energy & Justice at School.”

Cohorts from six schools completed student-led energy audits to better understand their school’s energy usage and how to reduce it.

Eight schools undertook projects directly related to this year’s optional theme: “Energy & Justice at School.”

When Zach Schroeder was teaching the civics curriculum to his seventh and eighth grade students at Skinner North Classical School in Chicago, the discussions kept coming back to environmental issues. Schroeder said. “I wanted to put experts in their hands and let them pick at their brains and find out. And they were so good at doing that.”

Based on their expertise, Green Schools mentors YC Chua, a graduate student at Northwestern University, and William Roberts, Chief Operating Officer at Engen EPP, developed presentations tailored to what the students wanted to learn more about. They began by discussing how change has occurred historically, hoping to give the students optimism about the future and their ability to make an impact on the environment, Chua said. “[The students] get inundated with the news, and overwhelmed about what they can do,” Schroeder said. “I think this was very empowering for them to see that there are specific steps they can take.”

This led into a materiality assessment, where the students thought about aspects of their own lifestyles that they could make more sustainable and researched which of these would have the greatest impact. This holistic exploration led them to consider everything from students’ modes of transportation to school to the amount of food waste in the cafeteria. Given the amount of time they spent indoors and the magnitude of energy that goes into heating and lighting, the students decided to focus on improving the energy efficiency in the school building.

“Our problems stem from the fact that every creature utilizes energy, and how we use it has gotten out of line,” Roberts said.

To investigate the school-wide energy usage, the students broke up into teams and covered different rooms, using thermo sensors and meters funded by an Illinois Green Schools Project mini-grant. They measured heat loss and the electric energy usage of current power strips.

The students then installed newer and more efficient power strips themselves and took measurements again to calculate the electricity saved. Chua connected the classes to a community relations professional at the electric utility ComEd, who sent them the school-wide energy usage data to analyze.

“Working in the bureaucracy of a giant public school system, it can be hard to get things like the electricity bill,” Schroeder said. The newfound connection to ComEd will allow Skinner North to continue looking at the changes in electricity usage in the coming years.

They also partnered with mentor and energy field specialist Justin Johnson to get the school’s fluorescent lights replaced with LEDs. Schroeder’s classes are also using their project to educate their fellow students. They plan to present to the sixth graders at Skinner North about their project and the energy savings results from the new light bulbs.

“If you can capture [students] and give them a practical semblance of how sustainability works, because it’s such an abstract concept, I think as they flow into society they will bring the concept with them and change the world for the better,” Chua said.

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“My favorite part of the Illinois Green Schools Project was seeing the beautiful collaboration between students, teachers, mentors, and administrators... what a powerful lesson it is to see how everybody working together towards a common goal — an important goal like sustainability — how much can truly be achieved. Cindy Wong, Oak Park River Forest High School Teacher

Building native gardens was a popular project, and five schools established a sustainable community garden with edible fruits and vegetables.

Sixteen schools emphasized schoolwide waste reduction in their projects.

This project was given a mini-grant from the Illinois Green Schools Project, made possible by the generosity of over 250 individual donors in 2022.
Family Matters partners with youth, families, and communities to cultivate a way of living in the world that develops strong relationships, meaningful communication, and safe environments for courageous social change as they seek to build an equitable society for all. The organization engages more than 1,000 members of the Rogers Park community each year.

As of 2020, Family Matters’ 100-year-old building had a 42% higher energy use intensity than its comparable peer buildings. WSP’s assessment determined that the main sources of the building’s energy and water consumption were space heating and lawn irrigation. Additionally, Family Matters wanted to optimize occupant comfort and reduce temperature fluctuation throughout the facility. As a result, Family Matters focused their energy-saving improvements on retrofitting the building’s interior lighting and pipe insulation, upgrading the water heater, and energy savings for their property.

Future projects recommended for Family Matters include motion-sensor leak detection, and centralized waste bins. These projects will save Family Matters even more on energy costs and will ensure that they and their building can continue to serve the greater Rogers Park community.

To learn more, visit www.IllinoisGreenAlliance.org/NeighborhoodPowerProject
Celebrating our 2022 Outstanding Volunteers

Kate Anderson
Account Executive, Johnson Controls

Kate's leadership on the Auxiliary Board helped build a partnership with the Young ASHRAE Professionals Group - a building tour at 401 N. Michigan. Her strengths in relationship building have promoted strong ties between volunteers and young professionals in the building industry. Her leadership also led to a sold-out Holiday Party raising several thousand dollars in sponsorship. Thank you Kate, for your dedication and enthusiasm for advancing green buildings and promoting the green building community!

April Bartnick
Special Education Teacher, Murphysboro Middle School

April has been instrumental to building our Green Schools network in Southern Illinois. During the 2022-23 school year, she expanded her participation and engagement in the Illinois Green Schools Project by not only enrolling her own school, but becoming a mentor for another southern school and encouraging other schools throughout Southern Illinois participate—going as far as to inspire an entire course full of Masters Teaching Fellows at SIUC to enroll their schools in the program. April is always willing to share her experience and feedback and participate in opportunities to make her school and district more sustainable.

Mohammad Heidarinejad
Assistant Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology

Mohammad joined Illinois Green’s Programs Committee for the first time as a volunteer in 2022, but has been a supporter, contributor and cheerleader of Illinois Green’s work for several years. During his first year on the Programs Committee, Mohammad led the development of our highest attended program in Illinois Green history, contributed to multiple additional programs throughout the year, consistently brought new voices and connections to our programs — and introduced Illinois Green to many of his students at IIT. We are thrilled that Mohammad has chosen to share his time, talents and network with Illinois Green and our educational work.

Justin Johnson
Energy Field Specialist, Evergreen Consulting

This past year, Justin served as the Fundraising Chair on the Auxiliary Board, where he helped to plan and execute the 2nd Annual Running to Net Zero 5K event. Justin’s leadership resulted in over $5,500 raised for the Illinois Green Schools Project. Additionally, Justin has also volunteered his time on Illinois Green’s ED&I Committee and as a Green Ribbon Reviewer for schools. Justin’s enthusiasm, initiative, and ability to build relationships makes him an outstanding volunteer. We are excited that Justin will be spending the next two years as a co-chair!

Ajit Naik
Vice President, Baumann Consulting

Ajit has volunteered as a Green Schools Mentor for the past two years, sharing his sustainability and engineering expertise with students in Illinois. His mentorship to the Academy for Global Citizenship and Whitney Young green schools teams have led them to impactful waste reduction projects with their students and staff through the Illinois Green Schools Project. Ajit always finds ways to support Illinois Green. This past year, he completed a pro-bono air quality assessment at UE Hall for the Neighborhood Power Project, Illinois Green’s program for existing nonprofit buildings. We can’t thank Ajit enough for his dedication to green buildings and support of our mission through volunteering.

Miranda Wright
Associate, Hartshorne Plunkard Architects

Miranda served as the Co-Chair of the Auxiliary Board in 2021 and 2022, leading the group of young professionals towards successful events that raised support and awareness for Illinois Green’s programs. Miranda’s kind nature, willingness to share her time and expertise, and passion for green buildings shines through in her leadership and execution of events. We are so lucky that Miranda has volunteered her time with us, and thank her for all of the success she’s brought to our organization.

This past year, over 100 green building professionals donated over 2,000 volunteer hours through one of Illinois Green’s engagement opportunities. Get involved! Find a way to share your expertise and grow your network at IllinoisGreenAlliance.org/get-involved
Growing our Green Building Community

Our Reach

2,700+ LinkedIn followers
14,000 email subscribers
500 individual members

Where our Members Work

- 18% Engineering & Utilities
- 14% Nonprofit & Government
- 13% Architecture/Design
- 11% Real Estate & Property Management
- 11% Construction & Manufacturing
- 11% Sustainability Consulting

What Our Members are Saying

“I love being a member with Illinois Green Alliance because it brings together people from such a wide range of industries, all working to help our environment. Cross-collaboration is critical in finding creative solutions, and Illinois Green Alliance has done a great job creating a place that brings together people with a common concern for nature and social justice who are eager and willing to work towards decarbonization goals.”

Kate Anderson
Account Executive, Johnson Controls
Member since 2019

“The main reason I love Illinois Green is the people. The staff are outstanding, and the volunteers, the fellow members, I’m very inspired when I look at the membership and see so many people who’ve been engaged for so long. It’s a positive reflection on an organization when you have people who keep coming back for more.”

Patty Lloyd
Sustainability Director, Leopardo
Member since 2007

“I choose to be a member for Illinois Green Alliance to grow my network of connections, and by joining I gained more than I could ever imagine. Over the past seven years my colleagues have grown to be my friends, and I learn something new about sustainability, life, and myself through everyone and every event I attend.”

Taylor Callahan
Customer Success Manager, Energy Industry Partnerships, Google via Adecco
Member since 2016

2022 marked a milestone year — together we celebrated 20 years of Illinois Green Alliance with members and friends. From sold-out events like the Boat Cruise and Limelight, to the dozens of education events, volunteer calls, and more. Thank you for being a part of our community.

Sincerely,
The staff of Illinois Green Alliance — Brian, Katie, Maggie, Maya, and Twyla