

Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group

2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process

IQ South EE Committee Leadership Team EE Idea Submittal:
Clean Energy Plans Framework for CBOs, CAAs and Local Governments

1. Submitter Contact Information

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2. **Description and Rationale:** Describe the proposed EE Idea and rationale for submission. Explain why this idea is needed and what main objectives the implementation of the idea would accomplish. Describe whether this is an idea that could be implemented in an existing EE program, or whether the idea involves establishing a new program. Please indicate whether additional research may be required before implementation.

Questions to consider:

- *What issue will this proposed energy efficiency idea resolve?*
- *Will the proposed change increase participation and result in increased energy savings?*
- *Will this reduce costs? Will this increase customer satisfaction?*
- *Will this help achieve statutory energy savings goals?*
- *Does the idea make EE portfolios more equitable?*
- *Would this idea require shifting budgets or resources? If so, where should the budget be shifted from?*

The Integrated Clean Energy Plans Energy Efficiency Program aims to achieve 2 overarching objectives goals which will help CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments develop “Integrated Clean Energy Plans” for underserved communities. These “Integrated Clean Energy Plans” are designed to help community organizations deliver the benefits of Clean Energy to their community members via a holistic, easy to follow, and low resource “Framework for Community Energy Planning”.

Goal 1: Create a Framework for Community Energy Planning that will help local governments and CBOs/CAAs develop “Integrated Clean Energy Plans” for underserved communities. This Framework should address, but not be limited to, strategies for:

- Identifying data sources that could be useful to understanding communities’ energy needs or to analyze questions that would be useful to answer in developing a Clean Energy Plan
- Educating Customers (individuals or businesses)
- Training local employment
- Increasing access to clean energy resources such as Energy Efficiency, Solar, and other renewables, EV Vehicles, and EV Charging
- Ensuring resiliency of energy resources as the energy grid and supply chain faces increased challenges due to electrification and changing weather patterns.

Goal 2: Identify Available Programs/Resources: Identify available resources that could be leveraged to develop and implement such Clean Energy Plans in underserved communities, including utility resources, state and federal programs/funding, foundation funding, and federal funding.

The Integrated Clean Energy Plans EE Program would address issues identified by CBOs, CAAs and Local Governments during IQ-S Integrated Clean Energy Plans Subcommittee Meetings related to accessing grant funding related to Clean Energy. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- **Poor Notice of Grant Opportunities:** CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments operate at times on a limited budget. As such, difficulties arise when RFPs have short turnaround times. CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments may require additional support resources when responding to grants which are difficult to procure on such short notice.
- **Limited Staff + Resources:** CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments typically have fewer staff members working to prepare materials for Grant Opportunities which makes applying for competitive funding challenging. It is important for CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments to understand available support resources and how to successfully leverage them to develop Clean Energy in their community. Examples of available support resources include:
 - Live Trainings offered by DCEO's Office of Accountability: [Upcoming Grant Trainings \(illinois.gov\)](#)
 - Available EPA Grant-Writing Resources: [Grant-Writing Resources | US EPA](#)
 - Single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by 26 Federal grant-making agencies: [grants.gov](#)
- **Limited Access to Key Technical Resources:** For Clean Energy Planning, many of the technical resources required to successfully complete a grant application are limited. These technical resources could include information on the local electric grid, current challenges facing clean energy upgrades, and information on budgeting projects.
- **Lack of Local Experts who can Assist:** Without local contractors/partners who can implement the Clean Energy Plans/Awarded grant funding, it is difficult to advocate for grant funding. Ideally, when CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments are awarded grant funding to develop Clean Energy in their communities, they can rely on local employment to implement the upgrades. This should include local suppliers and local contractors to ensure that capacity for developing Clean Energy remains within the community and can continue after grant funds are depleted.
- **Knowing where to Begin:** CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments have expressed that while they are interested in bringing Clean Energy to their communities, many don't know where to begin. There are many paths to developing Clean Energy in a community, but there are certainly low-hanging fruits that are easily accessible with low barriers to implementation. Ensuring that CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments have resources to learn what path to developing Clean Energy is best for them, based on the needs of their communities, is critical. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for implementing Clean Energy. Additionally, once CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments understand which path to Clean Energy is best for them, they should be directed to available funding resources to pave that path.

By providing a [Framework for Community Energy Planning](#) to CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments, development of Clean Energy in Illinois has the potential to become expedited as more communities become empowered to leverage available federal funding resources, such as the Inflation Reduction Act. This additional funding could have a variety of "spillover" effects to the rest of the utility portfolio as Illinois becomes a leader in deploying Clean Energy. Such benefits could include:

- **Increased Community-Based Capacity to Deploy Clean Energy Plans:** As CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments gain experience with deploying Clean Energy in their community, they will be able to tackle more advanced energy transition projects within their community. Additionally, the capacity for local contractors to assist in deploying Clean Energy will also grow with experience. Finally, as contractors become more adept at deploying Clean Energy, they will be better positioned to expand their business, hiring, and training the future Clean Energy workforce.
- **Increased opportunities for Utility + CBO, CAA, and Local Government Clean Energy/Energy Efficiency Partnerships:** As CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments

become more familiar with Clean Energy, there will be additional opportunities for Utilities to partner with local organizations to deliver Energy Efficiency Programs. Currently, most Utility funded low-income programs are run in partnership with CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments. By increasing the quantity of CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments positioned to deploy Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency programs, opportunities to implement Savings Generating IQ Programs will increase.

- **Increased Innovation in Clean Energy Technologies:** Advancing renewable-energy, energy-efficient, and sustainable transportation technologies via Clean Energy Plans will help to transform Illinois communities and spur economic opportunities.¹
- **Increased Job Creation and Growth:** Clean Energy research, innovation and deployment creates jobs and supports the growth of local, Illinoisians businesses.²
- **Increased State, Local, and Community Energy Transitions:** By building a knowledge-sharing network of communities deploying Clean Energy, CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments will understand how to define their own priorities (greater affordability, reduced power outages, sustainable job creation, or cleaner air), and leverage Clean Energy solutions to meet those priorities.³
- **Increased Energy Grid Resilience:** Clean Energy can help prevent electric grid disturbances and enable fast recovery after a disturbance. Using renewable energy resources and enhanced power electronics offers additional solutions to keep the power on or bring it back after an outage.⁴

3. **Illinois Utility Impacted:** Identify which utilities are impacted by the proposed EE Idea:

Check	Illinois Utility Impacted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ameren Illinois
<input type="checkbox"/>	ComEd
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicor Gas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Illinois Utilities

4. **Energy Efficiency Sector:** Identify which sector(s) the proposed EE Idea applies to:

Check	Energy Efficiency Sector
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family (non-income qualified/income eligible)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily (non-income qualified/income eligible)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Business Customers (commercial & industrial sector)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium/Large Business Customers (commercial & industrial sector)

¹ [Clean Energy Innovation | Department of Energy](#)

² [Clean Energy Job Creation and Growth | Department of Energy](#)

³ [State, Local, and Community Energy Transitions | Department of Energy](#)

⁴ [Energy Resilience | Department of Energy](#)

Check	Energy Efficiency Sector
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research & development, emerging technologies, or market transformation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (market development initiatives, Trade Ally support, reporting, etc.)

5. **Background:** Describe where the EE Idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdiction(s). Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

Questions to consider:

- *If this idea has been successfully implemented outside Illinois, do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved?*
- *Are reports available describing the successful idea / program approach?*

The Integrated Clean Energy Plans EE Program originated from the LIEEAC IQ-S Committee Leadership Team, all of which are leaders of community organizations. After discussing energy efficiency pain points with the Leadership Team, it became clear that additional support was needed to ensure communities are effectively tapping into available funding to develop Clean Energy Plans.

Additionally, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's "[On the Path to 100% Clean Electricity](#)" report, one key action needed to achieve 100% clean electricity is to:

"Proactively invest in and engage with disadvantaged and energy communities to ensure the impacts and benefits of 100% clean power are distributed equitably."⁵

To support this initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has publicized a variety of resources to help communities across the United States reach their decarbonization goals. These resources include:

- **State-Specific Renewable Energy Tools and Resources**
 - [Alternative Fuels Data Center](#): Provides information on alternative fuels and advanced vehicles including laws, incentives, fueling stations, fuel prices and more by state
 - [Energy Saver tax credits, rebates, and savings tool](#): Provides incentives offered by government agencies, utilities and others by state.
 - [Energy Star](#): Helps state and local governments with energy saving strategies to meet their energy and financial performance goals
 - [State and Local Planning for Energy Platform](#): Easy-to-access online platform supporting data-driven state and local energy and decarbonization planning
 - [U.S Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](#): Provides most current state energy information, overviews, rankings, data, analyses, and state-by-state comparisons.
- **Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**
 - [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program](#): Works with communities to promote energy efficiency upgrades in homes and other buildings
 - [Better Buildings Initiative](#): Partners with leaders in the public and private sectors to make homes, commercial buildings, and industrial plants more energy efficient by accelerating investments and sharing best practices.
 - [Building America](#): Conducts energy-efficient home research projects in the states.
 - [Green Power Network](#): Provides information on green power options in the states.
 - [Energy Transitions Initiative](#): Advances remote communities through the development of resilient energy systems
 - [Advanced Manufacturing Office](#): Helps industry use energy more efficiently.

⁵ [DOE - 100% Clean Electricity - Final.pdf \(energy.gov\)](#)

- [State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network](#): State and local effort to take energy efficiency to scale.
- [Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office](#): Provides funding and technical assistance to state and local governments to facilitate the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies
- [WINDEXchange](#): The Wind Energy Technologies Office’s platform for sharing credible information about wind energy.
- **Technical Assistance and Tools**
 - [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#): Collection of nearly 1,000 examples, strategies, and resources for residential energy efficiency programs
 - [State and Local Solution Center](#): Provides resources to advance successful, high-impact clean energy policies, programs, and projects.
 - [Weatherization Assistance Program Training Resources](#): Provides the weatherization network with various trainings, tools, and resources.
 - [Clean Cities Technical Assistance](#): Helps states and local communities overcome obstacles for deploying alternative fuels and advanced vehicles
 - [Building Energy Codes Program](#): Helps states and local code enforcement jurisdictions adopt, upgrade, implement, and enforce residential and commercial codes
 - [Solar Energy Resource Center](#): Has resources related to solar energy
- **Using Efficient and Renewable Energy Technologies**
 - [Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#): Provides information on the use of local, utility, state, and federal incentives for energy efficient purchases and improvements.

6. **References:** If any additional information will be useful to Illinois utilities and SAG participants in reviewing the EE Idea, please provide a description and links or attachment(s) to the source of information.

References:

- [Clean Energy Innovation | Department of Energy](#)
- [Clean Energy Job Creation and Growth | Department of Energy](#)
- [State, Local, and Community Energy Transitions | Department of Energy](#)
- [Energy Resilience | Department of Energy](#)
- [Why Clean Energy Matters | Department of Energy](#)

Appendix 1 – Tools and Resources for Public Sector Leaders Developing Clean Energy Plans

7. **Optional Additional Information:**

- a. **Estimated Budget:** Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2026 – 2029).
- b. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)
- c. **Estimated Savings:** Provide estimated savings for each program year (i.e. total numbers of therms for gas EE programs; total number of kWh for electric EE programs).

8. **Presenting to SAG:** EE Idea submittals will be presented to SAG in April. The SAG Facilitator is reviewing whether to schedule one of the April SAG meetings in-person. Are you interested in presenting this proposed EE Idea in-person?

Check	Are you interested in presenting to SAG in-person?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes



No

9. Appendix

Appendix 1 – Tools and Resources for Public Sector Leaders Developing Clean Energy Plans Investigation on

Tools and Resources for Public Sector Leaders Developing Clean Energy Plans

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State and Local Solution Center – Develop Plans and Programs

Purpose: To support public sector leaders by showcasing clean energy leadership best practices and replicable models that help maximize energy and cost savings, combat climate change, and help achieve energy justice in communities.

- [Develop Plans and Programs | Department of Energy](#)

Additional Resources on the following topic areas are available:

- [Wastewater Infrastructure](#)
- [Energy Resilience in the Public Sector](#)
- [Public Correctional Facilities](#)
- [Outdoor Lighting](#)
- [Low-Income Community Energy Solutions](#)
- [Rural Resources for States, Local Governments, and k-12 School Districts](#)

State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) Platform

Purpose: To integrate and deliver data on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation in an easy-to-access online platform to enable data-driven state and local energy planning.

- [State and Local Planning for Energy \(SLOPE\) Platform | Department of Energy](#)
- [State and Local Planning for Energy \(SLOPE\) Platform - Fact Sheet](#)

Two distinct tools to support planning needs:

- **Scenario Planner:** Build, view, and compare different energy strategies and visualize scenarios for future energy consumption, CO2 emissions, and system costs for states and counties.
- **Data Viewer:** Explore interactive maps and charts of city, county, and state data on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation

Target Questions:

- How can various energy strategies help my community achieve its energy or decarbonization goals?
- How do the system cost and CO2 emissions impacts of various energy strategies compare?
- How much of my community's energy consumption can be met by locally generated renewable energy?
- What portion of my state's electricity might be generated by renewable energy in the future under different scenarios?
- How much can my jurisdiction reduce energy consumption in the residential sector, and which efficiency measures have the greatest impact?
- How many commercial buildings over 20,000 ft² are in my city, and what is the total square footage broken down by property type?

- How do energy costs and generation potential compare across technologies, jurisdictions, and regions?
- How might electric vehicle adoption change my community's electricity demand over time?

Energy Resilience in the Public Sector

Purpose: A webpage featuring DOE and other federal tools and resources to support state and local governments with integrating resilient, clean energy technologies into public-sector facilities.

- [Energy Resilience in the Public Sector | Department of Energy](#)

Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool

Purpose: Created to help stakeholders understand housing and energy characteristics for low- and moderate-income households. Using data, maps, and graphs from the LEAD Tool, stakeholders can make data-driven decisions when planning for their energy goals.

- [Low-Income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\) Tool | Department of Energy](#)

Clean Energy for Low-Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) Toolkit

Purpose: A toolkit providing an overview of tools, resources, and models for developing low-income energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Provides materials to help program administrators reduce energy burden for low-income communities.

- [CELICA Toolkit: Clean Energy Solutions for Low Income Communities | Better Buildings Initiative](#)
- [CELICA Accelerator Overview FINAL.pdf \(energy.gov\)](#)
- [Clean Energy for Low Income Communities: Background and Quick Start Guide | Better Buildings Initiative](#)

Program Development Activities:

- [Stakeholder Engagement](#)
- [Community Assessment and Barriers Analysis](#)
- [Action Planning](#)
- [Metrics and Indicators](#)

Program Models:

- [Single Family Housing](#)
- [Multifamily Housing](#)
- [Community Solar](#)