



Sustainability in **FOCUS**



March 2014

- Building Green Illinois
- Events and Workshops
- Green Jobs
- Renewable Growth

green.illinois.gov
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Illinois Ranked #1 in Green Building Survey

Last month the US Green Building Council released its ranking of the Top 10 States for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), in which the state of Illinois ranked first overall with 173 LEED-certified projects.

“Both the public and private sectors in Illinois recognize that long-term investments in the 21st century infrastructure should be done in ways that reduce energy consumption and protect the environment,” Governor Quinn said. “Illinois is proud to be the nation’s green building leader.”

In 2013, workers throughout Illinois built over 29 million square feet of green certified space, roughly 2.29 square feet for every resident. The

previous year, 2012, Illinois ranked fourth behind Virginia, Colorado and Massachusetts.

LEED specifications challenge architects and construction crews to integrate sustainable design elements such as native plantings, solar panels or compost into their facilities. The USGBC certified 1,777 commercial and institutional projects in 2013.

[Read the USGBC statement on the rankings and case studies in Illinois.](#)



McCormick Place West is one of the largest LEED-certified facilities in the US.

Events

LEED V4: Advantages and Challenges of the Future

USGBC - Illinois
Rockford Radisson
March 18

Cultivating Student Power: Home Grown Activism

University of Illinois at
Chicago
March 18

Salvager's Ball

ReBuilding Exchange
March 22

Sustainable Backyards Workshop

CCGT
March 27

Mid-West Regional Sustainable Conference

Purdue University
March 28-30

Towards a Greener Illinois

Governor's Sustainability Awards

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is now accepting applications for the 2014 Governor's Sustainability Awards. Since 1987, ISTC has recognized sustainability efforts and technological advances throughout the state of Illinois—the oldest sustainability recognition program in the nation.
[Deadline: May 22, 2014](#)

Symposiums and Seminars

Spring brings with it a number of exciting environmental education opportunities.

Illinois Bike Summit [April 15, Champaign](#)

Registration is open for the third annual Illinois Bike Summit in Champaign. Bike advocates from across the state will meet to discuss pertinent bike and transit issues of today. Topics include complete streets policies, the Illinois bike census and the Illinois Bike Transportation Plan.

Illinois Joint Recycling Conference [June 3-4, Tinley Park](#)

The Illinois Recycling Association's Joint Recycling Conference brings together the best thinkers in Illinois waste management. From food scrap composting to DCEO grants for recycling, this conference features a wealth of speakers with waste management experience and expertise.

Green Jobs Corner

- Executive Director
Local First Chicago
- Project Coordinator,
Sustainability
Dairy Management, Inc.
- Community Organizer
Little Village
*Environmental Justice
Organization*
- New Markets Initiative
Associate
Elevate Energy
- Sustainability Analyst
USG
- Alternative Spring
Break (Volunteer)
*Forest Preserves of
Cook County*



Events

Earth Hour

March 29

Higher Education Energy Efficiency Forum

Higher Education Retrofit Project

April 4

Sustainable Design Challenge for High School Students

SCARCE

April 8

Solar Powering Illinois

Illinois Solar Association

April 8

Implementing Behavior Change for Energy Efficiency

IGEN

April 10

A Clean and Green Approach to Education

Governor Pat Quinn and USGBC-Illinois invite you and your organization to participate as an attendee, sponsor or exhibitor at the Illinois Healthy & High Performing Schools Symposium, hosted by the USGBC-Illinois Chapter, the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council and Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire on Friday, April 18, 2014.

This symposium for Illinois K-12 schools is free to attend and provides opportunities to exchange ideas with symposium participants such as school and district administrators, regional superintendents, school board members, facilities managers and custodial staff, teachers, school health practitioners, facility planners and architects, school-related non-profits and agencies, and high school

student environmental leaders. Applications for presenting are now open. Proposals may be submitted for 1-hour breakout sessions and 2.5 hour workshops. All sessions follow the Three Pillars of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program:

- Reducing environmental impacts
- Improving student and staff health and wellness
- Provide effective sustainability and environmental education

[Click here for more information on registration and sponsorship opportunities for the Healthy & High Performing Schools symposium.](#)

Contact [Anthony Cefali](#) with any questions or comments about the proposals and symposium.

Click here to register for the symposium! Admission is free.



ILLINOIS HEALTHY & HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM

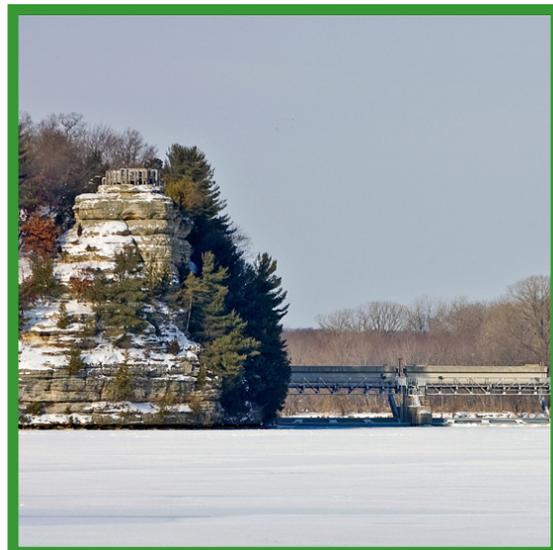
Illinois a leader in renewable energy

91 communities in Illinois use 100 percent renewable energy, more than any other state in the US according to a recent report. These communities represent 1.7 million individuals throughout the state.

Beyond renewable energy purchasing, Illinois ranks fifth in the nation for the generation

of electricity from wind power. According to research at Illinois State University, the state's 23 largest wind farms created approximately 19,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

[Read the full report on renewable energy purchasing from Go Clean, Go Local.](#)



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