

SUSTAINABLE CITIES NEWS & UPDATES

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Cycling Forward: Transporting Bicycle Policy into the 21st Century

Cycling and sustainability are almost synonymous terms even if the good scholars at Merriam-Webster would likely cringe (or recoil) at this equation. Bicycling sustains the environment by reducing the consumption of scarce resources like petroleum and electricity associated with other modes of transportation. Similarly, bicycling can conserve time as frustrated drivers watch cyclists whiz through areas of urban congestion. Beyond time and energy, cyclists sustain their limited corporeal resources through physical fitness.

The State of Illinois recognizes the essential role of cycling in society and is committed to the protection and expansion of bicycle infrastructure in the Land of Lincoln. Only through diligent and prudent planning, can we ensure that Illinoisans will have access to safe and durable bicycle transportation.

With this intent, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is proud to welcome Gabe Sulkes to the Office of Planning and Programming. As part of IDOT's commitment to a sustainable, integrated multi-modal planning and programming approach, Mr. Sulkes will focus on bicycle and

pedestrian planning for the State of Illinois. He will work closely with the staff within OP&P and across the Department to develop policies that promote safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible bicycle infrastructure in Illinois. He will also be responsible for coordinating outreach efforts with stakeholders for the State Bikeway Plan as well as ensure that all recommendations will integrate into the State's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Sulkes comes to the Department from Governor Quinn's office where he served as a sustainability policy advisor and helped administrate the Governor's Green Governments Coordinating Council. He was responsible for instituting the State's car-sharing master contract and developing Statewide travel policies through the Governor's Travel Control Board. He also developed communication materials for the Governor's office and produced this very publication: the Governor's "Sustainable Cities News &

Updates" newsletter.

Mr. Sulkes will work in close collaboration with bicycle stakeholders within State government and across Illinois. This includes members of the Illinois Inter-Agency Bikeway Coordinating Working Group and cycling advocates from all 14 of the State's Metropolitan Planning Areas.

Essentially, Mr. Sulkes will serve as a bicycle advocate within State government. He will strive to elevate the consideration of bicycling issues when IDOT drafts and implements Statewide transportation initiatives.

State Government only pedals forward when engaged constituents participate in representative government. Please visit IDOT's online [Bike Home](#) for more information and contact Mr. Sulkes at:

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Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email Mavara.Agha@Illinois.gov. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit Green.illinois.gov

Governor Quinn Signs Legislation to Strengthen Environmental Protections



"These laws will make sure that we are using the best recycling and waste management practices to preserve natural resources, while also preventing invasive species from invading our ecosystems."
- Governor Quinn

On July 26th, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn signed four new laws strengthening environmental protections in Illinois. The new laws protect ecosystems while also taking steps to ensure the state has sound recycling, waste management and plumbing practices. "We all have a responsibility to do what we can to protect our natural resources for future generations," Governor Quinn said.

- [**HB 4986**](#) establishes the Task Force on the Advancement of Materials Recycling to review recycling and solid waste management planning in Illinois.
- [**HB 4986**](#) also establishes recycling and composting standards that each county waste management plan must meet.
- [**HB 4496**](#) updates the plumbing standards code with new green technologies and plumbing practices in Illinois.
- [**HB 3892**](#) and [**HB 3888**](#) allows the Lake County Forest Preserve District to sell a structure on forest preserve land without selling the land itself and requires that any vehicle, seaplane or watercraft in navigable Illinois waters must have all aquatic plants or animals removed from its exterior before being transported away from the body of water, respectively.

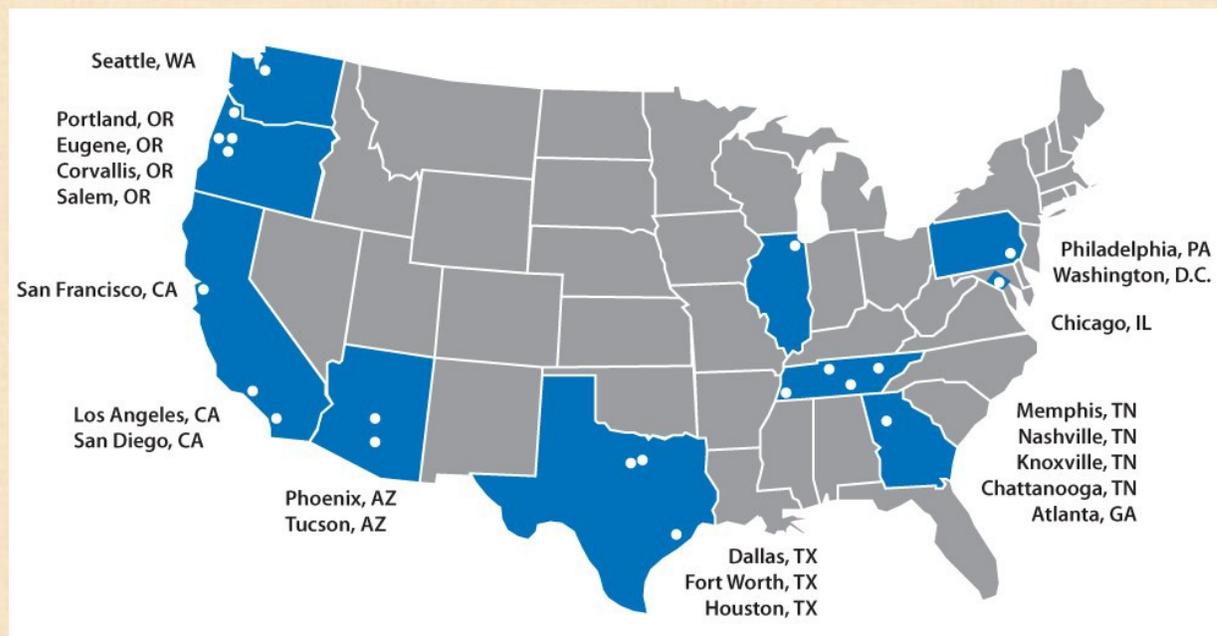


Gov. Pat Quinn signs new environmental legislation on July 26th at the Ryerson Woods Welcome Center in Deerfield.



Presents

The EV Project Chicago Hosting Partner Forum



When:

Monday, August 20th , 2012
10am—11:30am

Where:

InterContinental Chicago Hotel
505 North Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60611

Why:

Join a select group of business leaders and public officials to learn how you can qualify for The EV Project. Eligible hosts can qualify for free Blink chargers and installation credit through The EV Project, the largest data collection initiative of real world EV driving in history.

Who:

Leaders from the following organizations will be sharing their knowledge: City of Chicago, DOE Clean Cities, Commonwealth Edison, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Intercontinental Hotel, Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association, Continental Electric Construction Company, and Argonne National Laboratory.

RSVP:

Please RSVP by [clicking here](#) or by visiting: <http://www.theevproject.com/chicagoforum.php>



Spotlight: Renewable Energy Map

The [Illinois Solar Energy Association](#) (ISEA) and [Clean Energy Trust](#) are collaborating to create an interactive map of renewable energy sites in Illinois. This map will be a tremendous tool for educating the public about renewable energy, increasing development, and promoting renewable energy businesses.



The goal is to have a beta map prior to the Solar Tour on October 6th. If you are interested in contributing, please contact ISEA intern [Dawn Banks](#) to acquire more information.

The map will protect privacy by not displaying the names, addresses, or contact information of the site owners.



Spotlight: DCEO's Sweet Deal

[Illinois Energy Now](#) is an energy efficiency program administered by the State of Illinois that provides millions of dollars in rebates to public facilities that make large-scale equipment improvements to their electric and natural gas systems. More than \$70 million is available annually to help fund these projects. All Illinois public facilities located within Ameren Illinois and ComEd electrical service areas or Ameren Illinois, Nicor, North Shore or Peoples natural gas areas are eligible to take advantage of Illinois Energy Now.

The Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard provides rebates for energy efficiency upgrades. DCEO's Sweet Deal is a bonus on top of the standard rebate amount. Given that all requirements are met, The Sweet Deal Bonus shall increase the qualifying incentive by 14 percent. Potential upgrades to electric and natural gas systems include but are not limited to: lighting equipment, HVAC equipment, refrigeration equipment, motors and drives, gas furnaces, water heaters and boilers, and LED traffic signs.

DCEO funding is for Public Sector entities only, and is separate from funding provided through similar programs with utility companies for businesses, 501c3s and private schools. If an organization is not a public sector organization, it should check with its utility provider to see what energy efficiency programs may be available.

Sustainable Grants & Opportunities

This page announces the availability of nearly \$50 million and technical assistance in current funding opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments from the U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), IBM, Funders' Network, and American Institute of Architects (AIA) that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including smart growth, sustainability, and economic development. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below. In addition, please visit the [calendar of 2012 EPA grant opportunities](#) that may be of particular interest to communities.

1) IBM Smarter Cities Challenge – Technical Assistance

The Smarter Cities Challenge is designed to help cities address some of the critical challenges they are facing, such as energy efficiency and climate change impacts. Selected cities will receive assistance from IBM experts from different business units and geographies, who will work on the ground with city leaders and deliver recommendations on how to make the city smarter and more effective. For more information, visit the [Challenge page](#).

2) Economic Development Assistance Programs Federal Funding Opportunity – \$50.06 million

Application Due: Varies by program year; next due date is September 14, 2012

Under the Economic Development Assistance Programs (EDAP) Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement, EDA will make construction, non-construction, and revolving loan fund investments under the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace. In fiscal year 2012, a total of \$50,060,000 is available. For more information, visit the [EDA grant opportunity synopsis](#).



3) Funders' Network Local Sustainability Matching Fund – \$250,000

Application Due: October 1, 2012

The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network have joined together to launch a Local Sustainability Matching Fund. The fund will provide matching investments from national foundations on a competitive basis to build partnerships between sustainability directors and local place-based foundations to advance discrete sustainability initiatives that demonstrate broad-based community support and engagement. For more information, visit the [Funders' Network](#).

4) AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams (SDAT) – Technical Assistance

Application Due: Two review cycles; upcoming due date is October 12, 2012

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program focuses on the importance of developing sustainable communities through design. The American Institute of Architects' Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is particularly focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. Awarded communities will receive pro bono services from a multidisciplinary team through the program, and the AIA commits to funding up to \$15,000 for each project to cover team expenses. For more information, visit the [AIA SDAT page](#).

5) EPA Climate Leadership Awards

Application Due: October 12, 2012. Application period opens August 22, 2012.

EPA co-sponsors the Climate Leadership Awards (CLA) with three NGO partners: The Climate Registry, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and the Association of Climate Change Officers. The CLA is a national awards program that recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in response to climate change. Applications will be accepted for the following recognition categories: Excellence in Greenhouse Gas Management (Goal Setting Certificate), Excellence in Greenhouse Gas Management, Supply Chain Leadership Award, Organizational Leadership Award, and Individual Leadership Award. This year's award winners will be publicly recognized in early 2013 at the awards gala, held in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Climate Leadership Conference. For more information, visit the [Climate Leadership Awards site](#)

Caught Green-Handed

Chris Grissom

Former Superintendant, Illinois Correctional Industries, Dept of Corrections

In this edition of “Caught Green-Handed” we honor **Chris Grissom**, former Superintendant of the Department of Corrections at Illinois Correctional Industries.

Tim Gleason, CEO of Department of Corrections at Illinois Correctional Industries nominated Mr. Grissom for this recognition for his tireless efforts in sustainability and recycling as well as his active participation with the GGCC and member agencies for a number of years.

During Grissom’s tenure as the Superintendent of ICI’s Menard, the program has been given numerous awards from various institutions, including 5 GGCC Awards for categories such as green procurement, water conservation and facility management.

On a fairly routine basis Grissom has attended both county commission and city council meetings to be available to discuss and promote the recycling services ICI provides in partnership with the county and local municipalities. Additionally, he has been an advocate of “Green Cleaning” programs/products and helped establish ICI as one of the first Correctional Industry programs in the nation to offer a full line of third party certified green cleaning products. Grissom was also one of many stakeholders who participated in the establishment of Illinois “Green Cleaning Schools” Act.

Grissom regularly participates in the GGCC quarterly meetings and the annual GGCC symposium as well as the GGCC procurement and Recycling Sub-Committees. It was during a casual conversation at one of these meetings where the concept was launched for ICI to use the empty drums that ICI’s green cleaning chemicals are shipped in to make rain barrels. That casual conversation over lunch has resulted in well over 1,000 ICI manufactured rain barrels being placed throughout Illinois including the state’s fairgrounds, rest areas and even the Executive Mansion.

Chris Grissom — you have officially been caught green handed! Thank you for all that you have done. You are an inspiration to your community and to your state.



Fresh Potpourri

- 1) **1st Annual Illinois Green Business Summit**
September 6th & 7th, 2012, 8am — 11:30am
Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Join representatives from the private and public sector to discuss practical sustainability practices, learn about the challenges of going green and demonstrated examples of successes and benefits from industry professionals that can be replicated in your business, learn about IGBA's certification program, green technology, academic research and technologies, new innovations, incentive programs, and much more!

Five Tracks will be featured: 1) Where's the Green? 2) Certification – Why it Makes Cents 3) Green Technology and Research 4) Managing Resources 5) Local Economy

Click [here](http://www.illinoisgba.com/Summit2012.aspx) to register for the Summit. For more information visit: <http://www.illinoisgba.com/Summit2012.aspx>

- 2) **Solar Drinks & Social**
September 11th, 6:30 pm — 9:00 pm
Testa Produce, 4555 S. Racine, Chicago, IL, 60609



This is a great opportunity for anyone with a business, warehouse, or facility to **learn the why, how, and how much for implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements**. Testa Produce is the first Platinum Refrigerated Food Distribution Facility in the United States.

Visit the [Illinois Solar Energy Association](http://www.illinoisolar.org) for event details and click [here](#) to register.

- 3) **Illinois Chief Engineers & Facility Managers Training Conference**
October 23-25th, 2012
Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, Champaign, Illinois

The Illinois Chief Engineers & Facility Managers Training Conference continues to feature high-quality educational sessions on the latest technologies and applications used in the efficient and sustainable operation of buildings. Building engineers, facility managers and industry experts deliver presentations that offer conference attendees the opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and discuss common interests. Tours of buildings on the University of Illinois campus will supplement the course content. New for this year are peer roundtable discussions that will further enhance the classroom instruction through sharing of lessons learned in the real world of building operations and maintenance professionals cost, no-cost energy savings, and will facilitate open questions from attendees. Come prepared to discuss your particular facility issues and learn about effective solutions. **Register [here](#).**



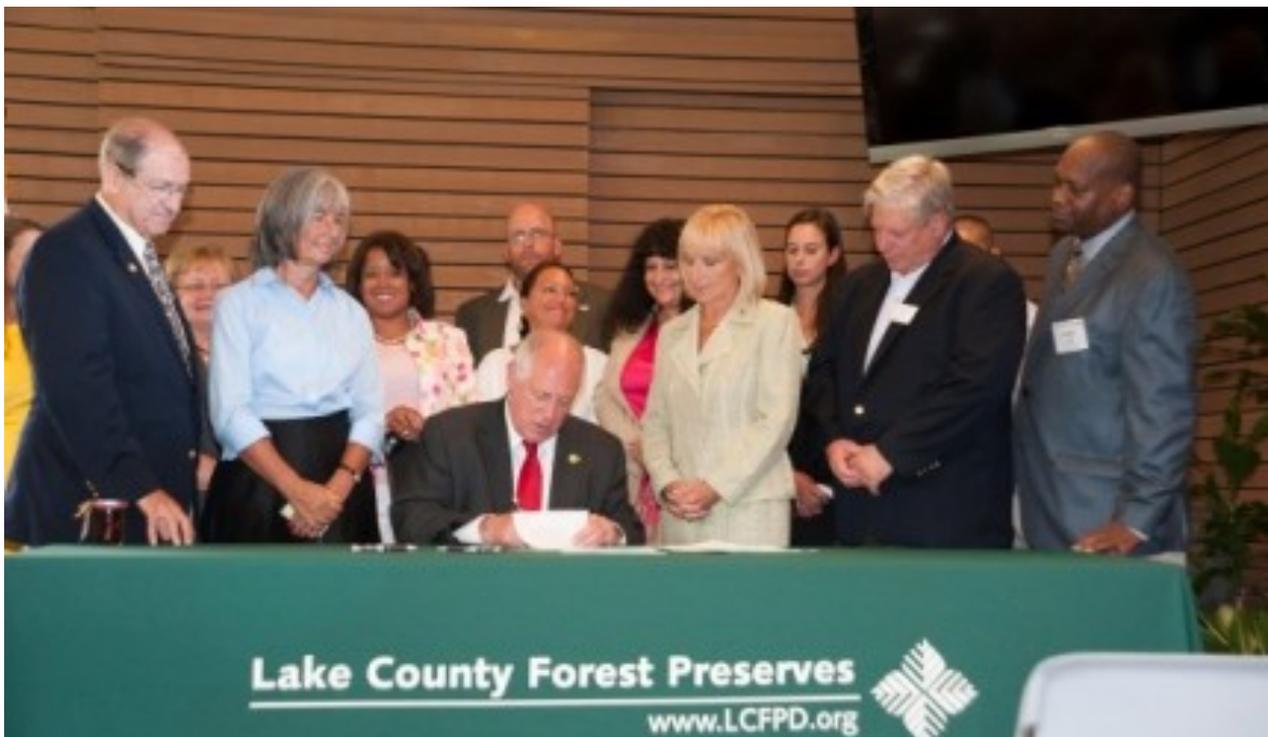


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This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Mavara.gha@illinois.gov

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Governor Pat Quinn signs legislation to strengthen environmental protections; the new laws ensure efficient recycling, waste management, and plumbing practices