

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Mission & Program Areas

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts, working with communities and residents to improve environmental quality in Illinois.

The Foundation funds projects in three core program areas: improving **energy efficiency**, developing **renewable energy** resources, and preserving and enhancing **natural areas** and wildlife habitat throughout Illinois.

Grants Awarded to Date

The Foundation's programs have grown steadily since it awarded its first sets of grants in 2001. Over the last eight years, the Foundation has awarded 3000 grants, totaling \$160 million to Illinois nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities and other local government agencies. The grants support activity in all of our 102 counties in the state.

The Foundation's funding priorities are described on the three pages to the left. The largest group of grants assists local governments and nonprofits to make money-saving energy efficiency investments in their facilities. Foundation grants have supported installation of high-efficiency lighting in more than 3,600 buildings. The Foundation has funded the design of more than 100 new and remodeled green educational, public safety, affordable housing, and community buildings.

In the renewable energy funding area, the Foundation continues to expand its support for installing solar energy systems, including small-scale photovoltaic systems on over 140 K-12 schools. At the same time, the Foundation continues to support wind power systems that meet the on-site energy needs of community-based facilities in Illinois communities.

The Foundation's natural areas funding is focused on acquisition of important wildlife habitat. In all, \$32 million in Foundation grants have helped permanently protect 15,470 acres of land in Illinois.

For More Information

Contact the Foundation's office or check our web site, which has other useful information for organizations seeking funding, including lists of past grant awards, grant application process information and announcements about any new initiatives that may be launched during 2010.

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Illinois Clean Energy
community foundation



2010 Program Priorities and Grant Application Guidelines

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Types of Grant Requests

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation will accept three different types of grant requests during 2010:

1. Throughout the year, the Foundation will accept grant requests for a few specific types of projects, described in the section below on "**Grants for which Proposals May Be Submitted Anytime.**"
2. Twice a year, the Foundation will accept letters of inquiry for projects on a wide range of topics, described in the section at right on "**Grants with January and July Application Deadlines.**"
3. Once a year, the Foundation accepts grant applications for programs to install energy efficient lighting and solar energy equipment, described in the section below at right on "**Targeted Grant Programs with Separate Guidelines, Deadlines and Application Forms.**"

Applicant and Project Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

The Foundation provides funding to federally recognized 501c3 nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies serving Illinois residents.

Ineligible Activities

The Foundation will not provide funding for remediation of environmentally impaired properties; technology research; promotion of proprietary products; reoccurring operating costs; political campaigns or lobbying; capital or endowment campaigns; or projects undertaken by individuals.

Grants for which Requests May Be Submitted Anytime

Throughout the year, the Foundation will consider requests for grant funding to support the types of projects described below. *Contact the Foundation for an explanation of what specific information to include in these requests.*

- **Energy efficient building design and commissioning** of new or substantially renovated public or nonprofit facilities. (Program guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.)
- Staff training, stakeholder workshops, or other activities to advance the adoption and implementation of **energy efficiency building codes.**
- On a limited basis, **educational forums,** conferences, and workshops focused on advancing energy efficiency or renewable energy in Illinois.

Grants with January and July Application Deadlines

To seek funding for a project in one of the categories described in this section, the first step in the application process is submitting a separate letter of inquiry *for each project for which a grant is being sought* by either **January 20, 2010** or **July 20, 2010.** A letter of inquiry may be no longer than three pages. It must describe the proposed project, explain the need for the project and summarize the total project expenses and proposed sources of funding, including the specific amount requested from the Foundation.

Following review of letters of inquiry, the Foundation will notify all applicants (in February and August, respectively) if they have been selected to submit a full proposal. When the Foundation invites a full proposal, it will specify what information the proposal should include and the supporting documents that must be submitted with the proposal. Proposals are due in March and September and final grant decisions are made in late April and late October.

Through this twice-yearly competitive grant process, the Foundation will consider funding requests for the following types of projects and may also invite requests on other topics being investigated for possible future grant programs.

Energy Efficiency

- **New Green Buildings:** Installation of *innovative high performance energy systems* not yet widely adopted in Illinois with energy performance characteristics above minimum Illinois energy code standards. Such systems should help earn points towards attainment of a LEED Silver or higher "green" building rate for either new construction or substantial rehabilitation.
- **Existing Buildings:** Equipment, technologies and measures *setting new energy performance levels* above Illinois market standard and minimum Illinois energy codes standards to demonstrate their effectiveness in types of facilities common in Illinois.

- Programs designed to develop **market demand and training** to advance efficiency targeting a specific sector.

Renewable Energy

- Installation of building-integrated **solar photovoltaic (PV)** or **thermal** systems or other renewable energy systems that earn points toward attainment of a "LEED Silver" or higher "green" building rating. *Contact the Foundation for detailed system and building eligibility requirements.*
- Projects demonstrating the market viability of **solar PV and thermal, biomass, fuel cells,** or newly emerging renewable energy technologies.
- **Community-based wind power generation** *meeting the on-site energy needs of community institutions* such as nature centers, education buildings and municipal facilities.
- Programs designed to develop **market demand and training** to advance renewable energy throughout Illinois.

Natural Areas

- **Acquisition** of important natural habitat and wildlife areas.
- **Planning efforts leading to acquisition** of priority natural areas.
- **Building capacity** of nonprofit organizations that acquire and manage natural areas. *Contact the Foundation for eligibility and grant amount limitations.*
- On a very limited basis, one-time capital expenses for **restoration** of natural areas by *nonprofit organizations.*

Targeted Grant Programs with Separate Guidelines, Deadlines, and Application Forms

The Foundation operates several grant programs to help specific types of public and nonprofit facilities install energy efficient or renewable energy equipment. These programs and their application deadlines are shown in the chart at the right. *Contact the Foundation office or visit our web site (www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org) for a copy of the guidelines and required application form for each of these programs.*

Program	Application Deadline	Grant Decision Date
Historic Courthouses	March 24, 2010	May 2010
Public Safety Facilities	March 24, 2010	May 2010
K-12 School Solar PV Systems	March 27, 2010	May 2010

