



What is New in Energy?

The environmental impacts of climate change facing the globe, the nation, and Chicago are becoming increasingly apparent. This year national weather reports have documented eleven of the past twelve years as the hottest on record. Increased numbers and size of wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters are occurring in record numbers. In response to this new reality, various bodies within Chicago have shown a desire to move to a more sustainable Chicago. Programs and strategies have been developed at the regional, municipal and community levels. Broad, sweeping plans have been prepared to address the anticipated effects of climate change, including the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP), the Climate Action Plan for Nature (CAPN), CMAP's Go To 2040 plan, and the Chicago Office of the Mayor's Sustainable Chicago 2015 Action Agenda.

These plans depend upon widespread engagement of the general population. Regional and municipal plans tend to reflect a "top down" strategy that seeks behavioral adaptation among the urban population through a combination of education, promotion, and incentives. Though important and necessary, such strategies have a limited ability to release the full creativity and innovation of ordinary citizens. A "bottom-up" approach builds upon ingenuity and resourcefulness that emerges from, and is driven by, people's interests, concerns, and commitments. The urgency of today's environmental crisis is massive, and comprehensive action is required in multiple dimensions at all levels of society. One of these includes creating a space for complementary action from the 'top' (policy-makers) and the 'bottom' (grassroots, local organizations). This space, the 'in-between,' where government and communities work together to collectively address big challenges, is the realm of collaborative government.

The Joyce Foundation and Boeing helped begin the creation of this 'in-between' space by co-sponsoring the September 15, 2012 Accelerate 77 Share Fair: Chicago Accelerating Green Initiatives in Chicago's 77 Community Areas held at Truman College. Over 435 people attended to interact with 150 community sustainability projects and 24 resource seminars.

The next 'in-between' space will be on November 15th 2013, **The Future of Chicago's Energy**, sponsored by Renewable Energy Alternatives, People's Gas, Clean Line Energy Partners, Boeing Foundation, and ComEd. As the Sustainable Chicago 2015 Action Agenda states, "Today, upgrading hundreds of thousands of buildings represents one of Chicago's most promising economic and environmental opportunities. A citywide energy efficiency focus will result in a cleaner, healthier, and more affordable place to live." Initial program highlights for the one-day program include:

- Jamie Ponce of the Clinton Foundation will give a **Chicago Energy Report** plus how Chicago stands in relationship to other global Cities.
- **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)/Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT-Energy)** will talk about the learning's and future of Energy Efficiency.
- Highlighting the work being done with **Retrofit Chicago**, ICA will host the event as one of the Retrofit Chicago buildings in Uptown Chicago.
- **The Department of Housing and Economic Development, The Environmental Law Policy Center and Renewable Energy Alternatives** will be partnering to highlight the new opportunities in solar.
- Documentation of **local community efficiency and renewable energy projects** such as the Claretian Associates work on the Southside will be presented plus facilitated workshops on designing the future of Chicago's 77 communities Energy roadmap
- Other partners include: **Active Transportation Alliance, World Wildlife Fund, Franklin Energy, Sierra Club, Chicago Center for Green Technology and the Citizen Utility Board (CUB)**
- Tours of the ICA's **Greenrise** Building

The outcome of the Energy Forum will be a new understanding of the challenges facing energy and the opportunities that are already being put in place for the future. We anticipate 100 people beginning to see how local communities can be engaged in new energy efforts with 50 attending from Chicago's local communities and 50 from institutions and government. Each participant will walk away with their person/organization 10 point action plan.

Organizing sponsor:

