

Introduction to the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 Southern Illinois Clean Energy Summit John A Logan College, Carterville, Illinois



Christine Flynn, MSW, MPA

Public Sector Consultant

Workforce Policy Lab at Northern Illinois University





WORKFORCE POLICY LAB



- Partner with state agencies and education, workforce, and economic development stakeholders to develop and improve workforce development programs, policies, and systems
- Team Advanced degrees in Human Capital Development, Economic Development, Higher Education Administration, Community Development, Public Administration, Communications, Social Work, Economics, and Systems Engineering
- Diverse lived experience includes:
 - Poverty
 - Race and gender bias
 - Immigration
 - First generation college attendance

- Workforce program participation
- Entrepreneurship
- Military service
- Neurodivergent



Overview

1

Goals of CEJA

2

CEJA
Motivating
Factors

3

Clean Energy Ecosystem 4

Engage with CEJA



Illinois Secures a Major Climate and Equity Victory

September 14, 2021 | 3:23 pm





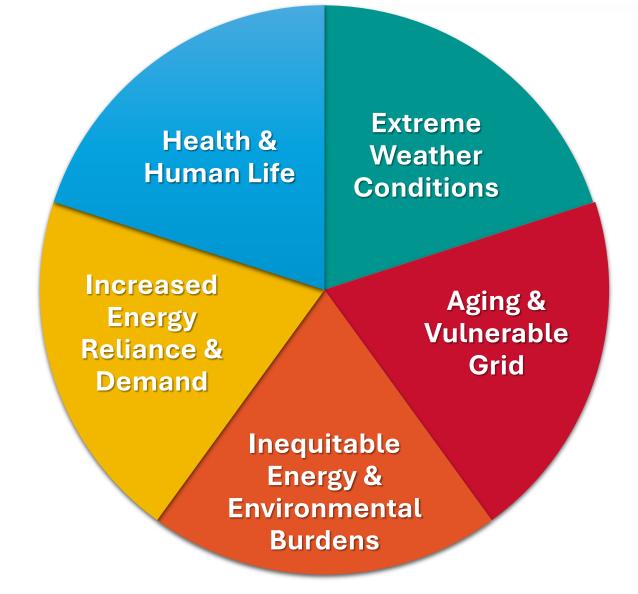
To provide the highest quality of life for the residents of Illinois and to provide for a clean and healthy environment, it is the policy of this State to rapidly transition to 100% clean energy by 2050.

Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, Public Act 102-0662



CEJA Motivating Factors





Extreme Weather Conditions



CHICAGO SUN*TIMES

Nearly 9 inches of rain reported in some areas as recordsetting storm stops trains, closes highways and floods homes

By Monday morning, all expressway between Pulaski and 54th/Cermak (fewer than planned.

By Mohammad Samra and Emmanuel Camarillo

Hot asphalt, 'corn sweat' and floods: Guardian midwest swelters as heatwave grips the

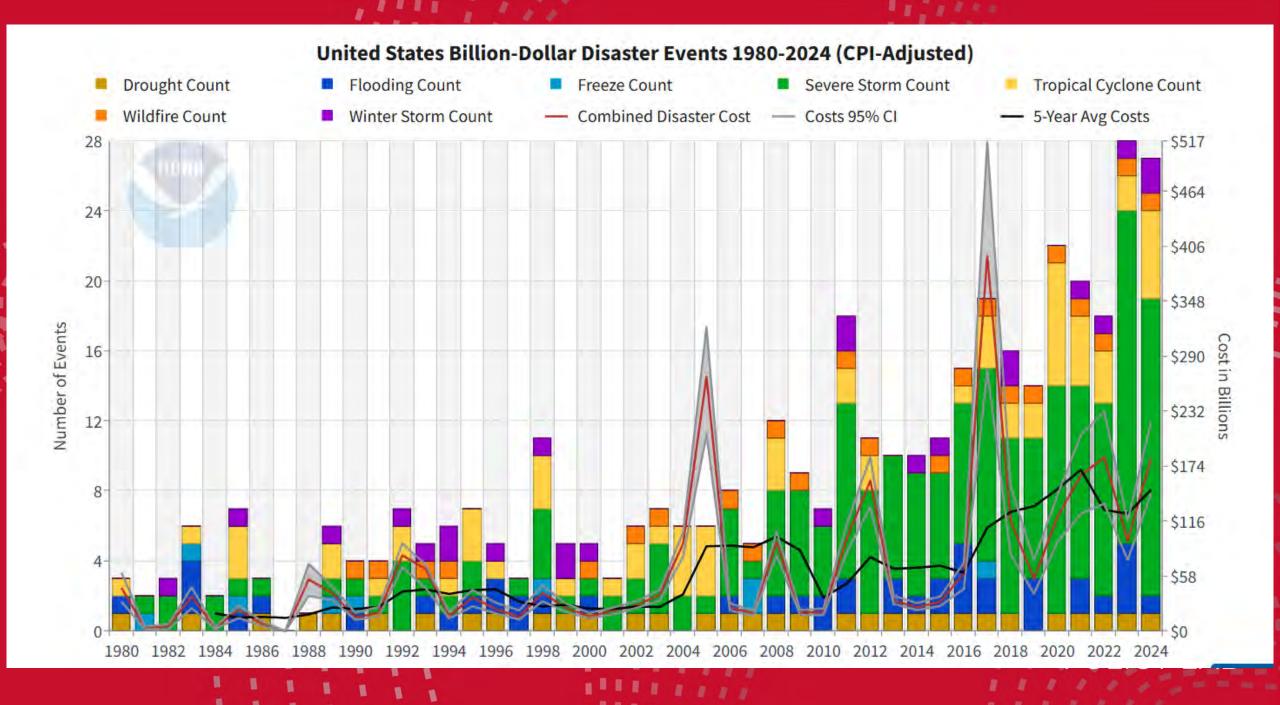
Stephen Starr in Dayton, Ohio

Ved 25 Jun 2025 10.00 EDT

Tornadoes are spinning up farther east in US, study finds

US





Health & Human Life



JULY 1, 2023 | 10 MIN READ

Extreme Heat Is Deadlier Than Hurricanes, Floods and Tornadoes Combined

When dangerous heat waves hit cities, better risk communication could save lives

BY TERRI ADAI

Texas identifies the 119 people killed in Kerr County floods

SCI AM

Most victims were Texans, but some were visiting from other states like California, Florida and Alabama. The youngest victims were 1 year old; the oldest was 91.

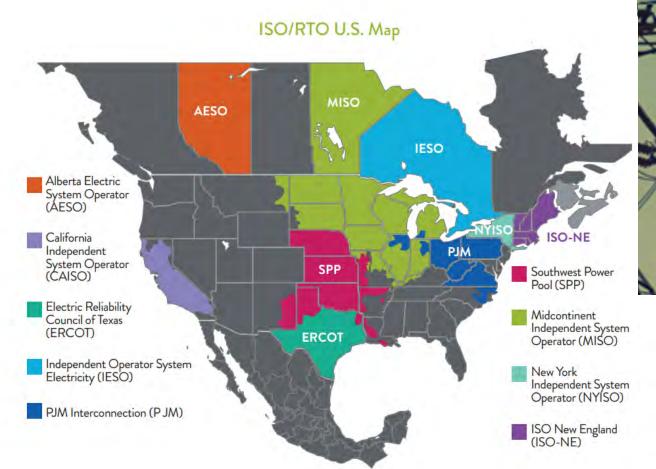
BY ATIRIKTA KUMAR AUG. 8, 2025 UPDATED: AUG. 11, 2025

SHARE REPUBLISH /



Aging & Vulnerable Grid

80%
of electrical
outages since 2000
have been due to
extreme weather

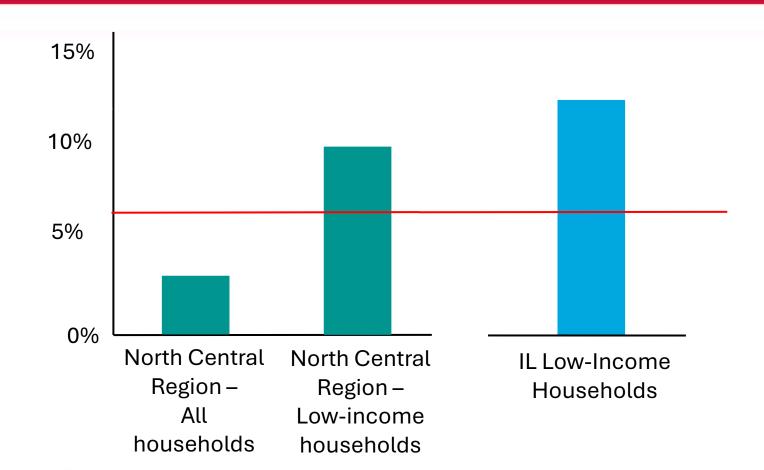




WORKFORCE POLICY LAB

Inequitable Energy & Environmental Burden



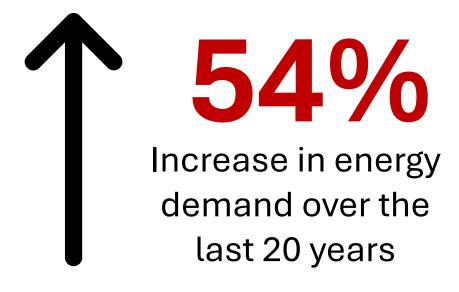


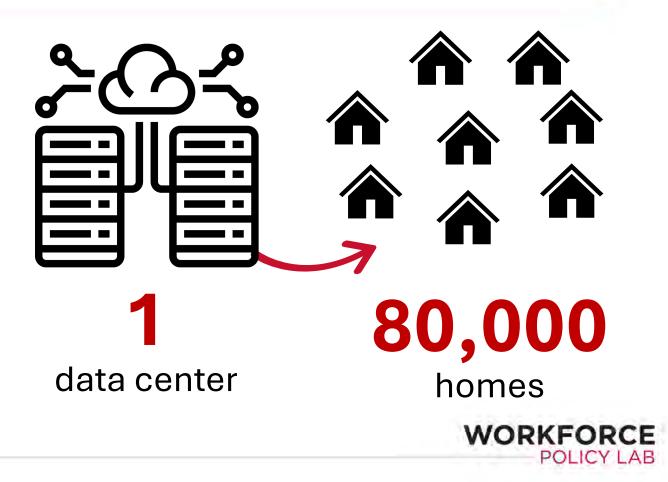
Energy burden for low-income households in Illinois outpace the region



Increased Energy Reliance & Demand









When spiders unite, they can tie down a lion.

-Ethiopian Proverb



Illinois Clean Energy Ecosystem



Net Metering for

Solar

Equitable Energy

Upgrade

Program

Renewable

Energy Access

Plan

Non-CEJA Energy Programs



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Standard Offer Lease-to-Own

Bright Neighborhoods **Pilot**

Community Driven Community Solar

Energy Sovereignty Loan

Working Capital

Contractor Portal

Solar APP+

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent **Energy Equity Portal** Scholarship **Utility Scale Procurement** Illinois Student Illinois Assistance Illinois **Solar For Shines** Commission All Illinois Power Agency **Illinois Power Energy Resources Fund** Agency **Energy Efficiency** Program Illinois Housing **Green Resilience** Authority **Retrofit Program** Illinois Finance Authority/ **Climate Bank Climate Bank Building Energy Codes** Energy Efficiency C-PACE **Trust Fund Charging & Fueling Electric** Charging Infrastructure Vehicle Incentive Rebate **Community Charging Program**

Community Resilience

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant

Hubs

Federal Tax Credit/REC **Bridge Loan**

GRID

State Small Business Credit Initiative

Illinois **Environmental** Protection Agency

> National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure **Program**

Stretch

Energy

Codes

Capital

Development

Board

Electric School Bus Energy Assessments

CPRG

Energy Codes Training

Contractor Training Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant

Energy Efficiency

Climate Jobs Advisory Council Central Management

State Fleet

Electrification

Services

Climate & Equitable

Jobs Act

+Non-CEJA

Clean Energy

Illinois Dept. of

Transportation

Congestion

Mitigation & Air

Quality

Competitive

Freight Port

Infrastructure

Carbon

Reduction

Program

Climate Jobs Institute

> Illinois Commerce Commission

Division of Integrated Distribution **Planning**

> **Future of Gas** Initiative

Transmission &

Distribution

System Planning

Integrated Grid Plans

Multi-Year

Energy Workforce Advisory Council

Illinois Community College Board

IAC Program: Clean Energy Building/Manufacturing **REV Up EV Community College Initiative**

Program

Clean Energy Jobs

& Justice Fund

Dept. of Coal to Solar **Grant Program**

Commerce & Economic Development

Illinois Dept. of Labor

> **Small Clean** Energy Contractor **Prevailing Wage Act Assistance**

Community Solar Sovereignty Grant

Climate Works **Pre-Apprenticeship** Program

Workforce Hubs

Equitable Energy Grant Program Energy Transition

Community

Grant

Contractor

Primes

Accelerator

Returning

Contractor Incubator

Energy Transition Navigators

Energy Transition Workforce Commission

Weatherization

Energy Workforce Advisory Council

Assistance Residents **FEJA Solar Pipeline Training**

FEJA Multicultural Jobs Program

Program

FEJA Craft Apprenticeship Program

Clean Energy Career Pathways Program

Reimagining Electric **Vehicles in Illinois Act** (Rev Up EV)

15



Collaboration is essential to the success of CEJA

Contractor Development

Workforce Development



How can you engage with CEJA through DCEO?

Seek Economic Development Grant Funding Join a Workforce Development Program

Join a Contractor Development Program Personal Incentives (i.e. EV, Solar)

Provide Feedback/Input

Hire Workforce Graduates

Partner with Existing Grantees

...and more!





Christine Flynn, MSW, MPA

Public Sector Consultant

Workforce Policy Lab at Northern Illinois University

Email: CFlynn5@niu.edu

