




Clean Energy Jobs
AND Justice Fund

Funding Clean Energy in Illinois



What Is a **Green Bank**?

- A mission-driven organization, not a traditional bank
 - Offers financing tools to make clean energy technologies accessible to all
 - Advances the green economy by supporting clean energy projects, contractors and developers
 - Created with private and public funds
 - Accepts higher risks and lower returns
- 



What Does a Green Bank **Offer to the Market?**

- Financing for underserved markets
- Market development
- Leverage public & private capital
- Technical assistance
- Catalytic and affordable capital



How Does a Green Bank Leverage Capital?

- Providing guarantees to lower private lenders' risk
- Blending capital to reduce interest rates
- Direct lending to support capital stack
- **Generally, each \$ in a green bank attracts 4X-20X investment**

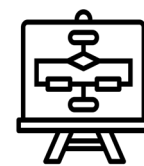


Green Banks

Clean Energy Expertise & Capital to Fill Market Gaps



Provide clean energy expertise & technical assistance



Build community partnerships & project pipeline

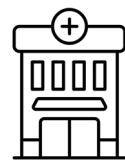


Secure & invest capital from federal, state, local, and philanthropic sources

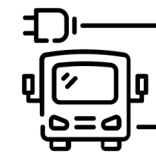
Financing Projects with Real Community Impacts



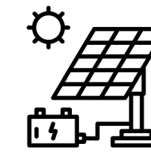
Affordable Housing



Energy Efficient Schools, Health Centers, and Community Infrastructure



Zero Emissions Transportation



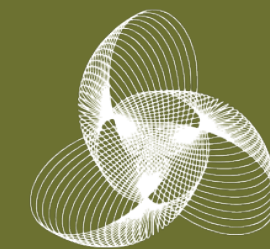
Distributed Energy & Community-Scale Energy

What Happens to Communities When Local Green Banks Thrive?



Nationwide Network of Green Community Lenders





**Clean Energy Jobs
AND Justice Fund**

About **the Fund**

- Community-informed nonprofit green bank created through the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act
- Focus on fostering economic growth in traditionally underserved communities
- Supports clean energy workforce development
- Offers low- and no-interest loans and grants, in addition to other financial partnerships

Our Goal

To ensure everyone shares in the economic benefits that clean energy brings, such as saving money on energy bills growing generational wealth, and building thriving businesses.



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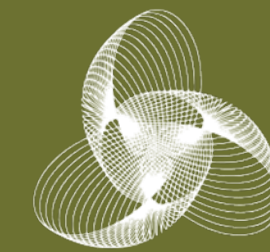


Karen Weigert
Director
Baumhart Center

Our Mission

The mission of the Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund (CEJFF) is to advance a fair and inclusive transition to clean energy across Illinois by:

- Expanding access to capital for clean energy businesses that face barriers to traditional financing,
- Helping homeowners and small businesses lower their energy costs, and
- Facilitating frontline communities' access to clean energy solutions that foster healthier environments and stronger local economies.

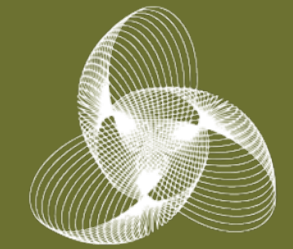


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Homeowner

- What should I install?
- How can I afford energy upgrades?
- How do I find a good contractor?

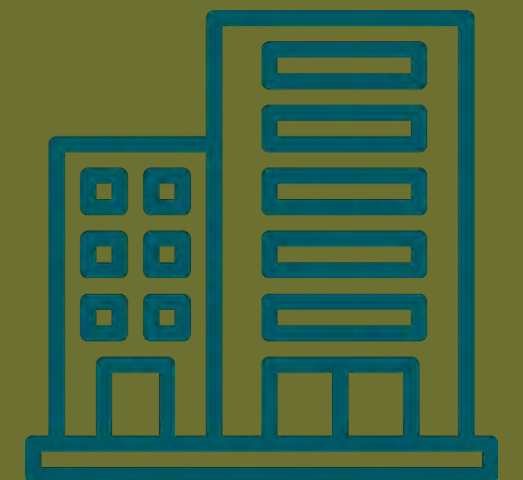


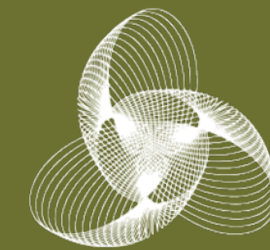


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Building Owner

- How can I afford a large, capital-intensive energy upgrade?
- What kind of upgrades would be good for business?
- Who can install my energy upgrades?



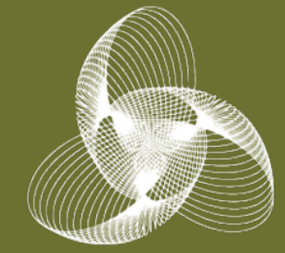


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Lenders

- How do we get started with this type of financing and mitigate risks?
- How do I find new customers who are interested in financing energy upgrades?

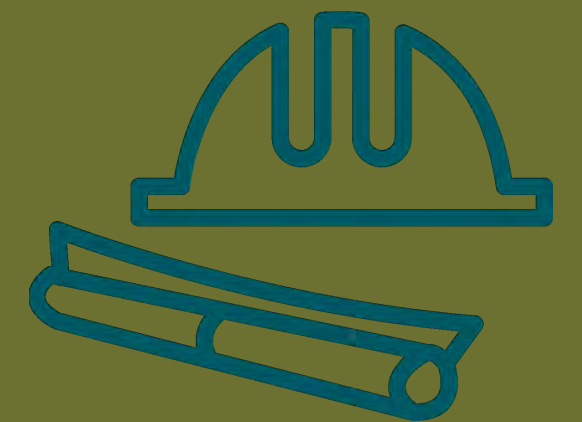


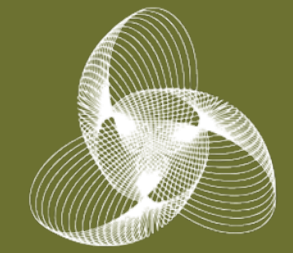


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Contractors

- How can I sell high-efficiency equipment when it is so expensive?
- How can I help my customer get upgrades that cost more than they can afford?
- How can I help my customer when financing approval takes so long?
- How can I make a profit with high dealer fees and waiting so long for payment?

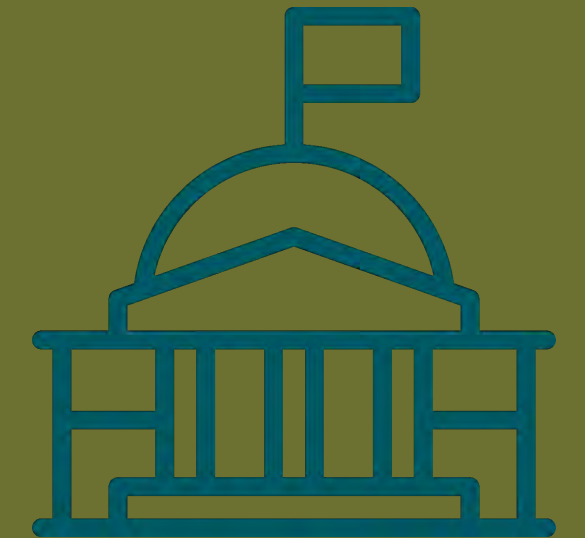




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Government

- How can we meet policy and energy equity goals?
- How do we advance net-zero housing upgrades?
- Are there resources to install solar on municipal building, such as schools?



Timeline



Challenges to an Inclusive Green Economy

- **Capital access barriers** especially for emerging & minority- and women-owned businesses
- **Overwhelming funding landscape** favors higher capacity businesses
- **Growing demand for technical assistance** to access capital
- **Unclear roles of CEJJF and IFA/ICB** causes confusion about opportunities and support
- **Slow distribution of grant funds** can disrupt project timelines and feasibility

Challenges to an Inclusive Green Economy

- **Need for market building** across disadvantaged communities
- **Condition of housing stock** disrupts contractor workflow and frustrates residents
- **Trust gap between communities and institutions** slows renewable energy deployment
- **Emerging businesses** seek engagement in program and product development.

Recommendations for CEJJF programs

- Orient infrastructure for **technical assistance** and integrate into CEJA programs
- **Clearly define roles** between CEJJF and IFA/ICB
- **Embrace a community-informed model** that establishes trust with constituents
- Establish an **equity tracker** and commit to regular, **transparent reporting** about impact and investment
- **Create contractor and finance advisory councils** to shape CEJJF programs and financial products

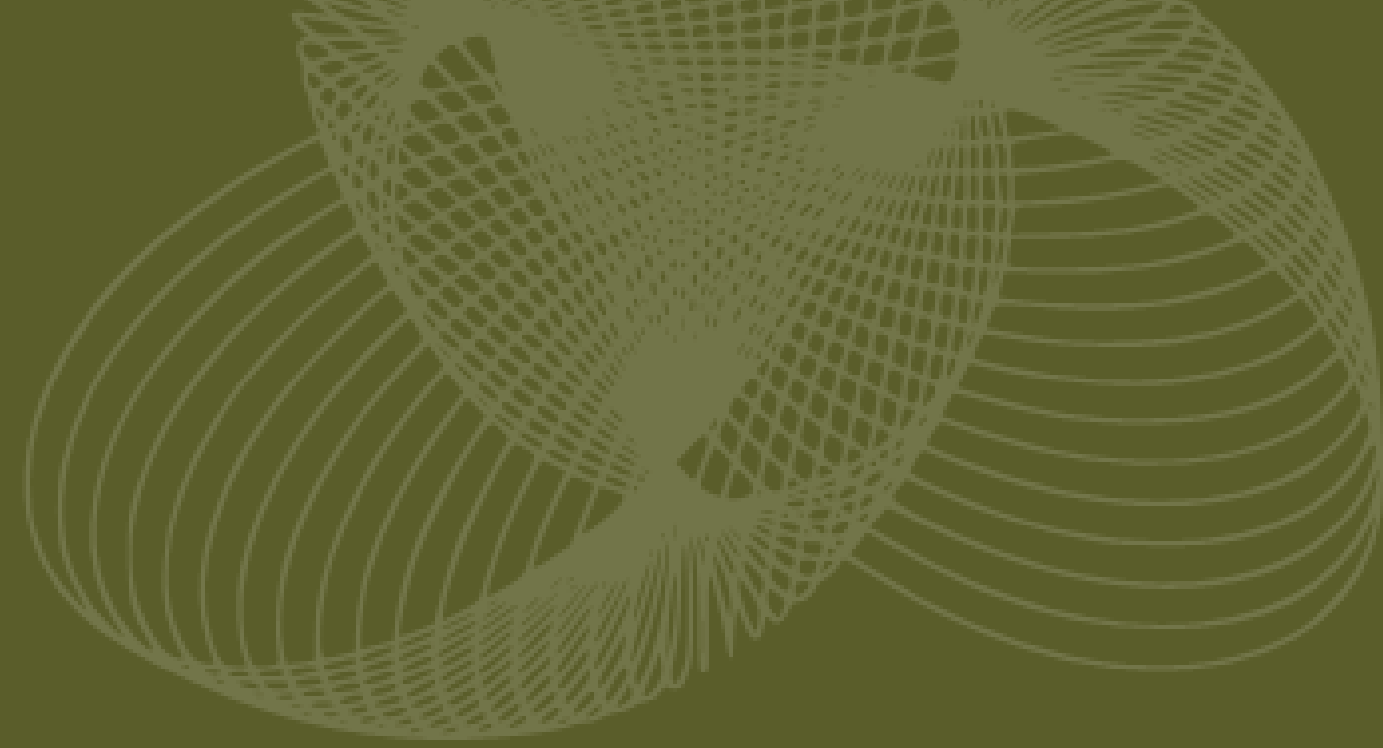
Recommendations for CEJF programs

- **Establish a flexible line of credit** to support emerging businesses
- Support market building with a **residential loan product**
- Identify lending partners and support community solar through **interest rate buy downs** (short term solution)
- Collaborate with DCEO to identify solutions such as a **bridge loan for grantees**

What are we doing now?

- Identifying at risk projects and funding gaps under the new ITC and FEOC rules
- Facilitating introductions to potential lending partners
- Finalizing first product offerings – roll out Fall 2025
- Advocating for capitalization of the Fund





How can we work together?

What is your vision for a clean energy future in Southern Illinois?

How can the Fund support you in making that vision a reality?



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Let's Connect!

Rebecca Sanders
Executive Director
(312) 702-2132
rsanders@cleanenergyjobsjustice.org

Van Ikner
Director of Engagement & Partnerships
(618) 278-8298
vikner@cleanenergyjobsjustice.org