



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT CHICAGO'S 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

“When we passed the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act last year, we were able to come together with so many stakeholders, from labor organizations to environmental groups to utility companies,” said Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin). “This cooperation gave us one of the most comprehensive and equitable energy bills in the nation, positioning Illinois to become a leader in green energy. Now, the City of Chicago is stepping up to make that happen, and build a better, more reliable future for our children.”

“This announcement today is a leap forward for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois and is a prime example of what we can accomplish when we all work together,” said Representative Ann Williams, chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee. “As one of the leaders on CEJA, it is exciting to see the Mayor and the City of Chicago build on that progress while continuing to prioritize good-paying jobs and workforce development across our State.”

“The landmark Clean Energy and Jobs Act put Illinois on the path to a greener, more sustainable future while also prioritizing jobs and equity,” said House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch. “I’m proud to see Chicago take significant steps to put consumers and a diversified workforce at the forefront of this new power supply project. Together we continue to make Illinois a leader in the clean energy revolution.”

“When the Senate Democrats were working on the Clean Energy Jobs Act, we always prioritized the creation of good-paying jobs,” said Senate President Don Harmon. “I am pleased to see the City of Chicago moving forward with a plan that will benefit workers and energy consumers throughout the state.”

“As the chief sponsor of the Clean Energy Job Act (CEJA), I worked with Gov. Pritzker, Speaker Welch, Senate President Harmon and my wonderful General Assembly colleagues to pass this historic legislation ushering in a path for a clean energy future,” said Leader Marcus Evans. “Every word and piece of this act is



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important, particularly the workforce and equity focused language. I am a proud 8th Ward of Chicago resident and homeowner, and it's a joy to see my mayor take real action to improve our environment and city for generations."

"When CEJA was signed into law, Illinois became a national leader on equitable clean energy policy and today's announcement shows that the City of Chicago is committed to that cause," said State Representative Robyn Gabel, Assistant Majority Leader of the Illinois House. "We owe it to future generations to fight back against climate change and to continue to build a clean energy economy here in Illinois."

"We're happy to see the City's commitment to reach 100% renewable energy and Elevate will be advising the City to ensure that BIPOC contractors benefit from the construction of any renewable projects to meet that goal," said Delmar Gillus, Chief Operating Officer of Elevate. "This focus on equity is another way we can see the goals of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in action."

"With this deal, Chicago will become one of the largest cities in America to power its municipal operations entirely from renewable energy — a direct result of the City's ambitious vision, innovative procurement process, and commendable persistence through challenging market conditions, said Matthew Popkin Manager of Urban Transformation at RMI. "By strategically leveraging its purchasing power to invest in renewable energy, quality Illinois jobs, and community programs, Chicago continues to demonstrate how cities can lead by example and shape an equitable, clean energy economy."

"Chicago's Sustainability Office gets it — unprecedented times need unprecedented moves," said Naomi Davis, Founder and CEO of Blacks in Green. "For climate, cities must dramatically reduce fossil fuel pollution. Chicago also understands the demands of Black Energy Justice, a campaign to end energy poverty. This procurement, with its 30% holdback on REC's, will give Black/Brown suppliers and developers the time and supports we deserve for meaningful participation in the energy industry. We are preparing for significant wind, geothermal, and solar deployment. For environmental and economic justice, the very first step is clean, safe, reliable energy that is affordable for all. Congrats for your courage on this uncharted path!"

"Climate change is a shared crisis of a historic scale, and it will take this kind of investment at all levels of government to deliver the transformational advancements we need to confront this crisis at the magnitude scientists have called for," said Iyana Simba, City Programs Director of the Illinois Environmental Council. "Today's announcement couldn't come at a more exciting time, right on the heels of the U.S. Senate passing once-in-a-generation climate legislation and less than a year



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after the enactment of the nation’s most equitable climate jobs bill– Illinois’ Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.”

“The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition applauds Mayor Lightfoot and the City of Chicago for taking bold action that works with the nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) to protect our climate, cut energy costs for consumers, taxpayers and small businesses, and create equitable clean energy jobs,” said the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. “By committing to a rapid, 100% transition away from dirty fossil fuels, Chicago will save money by investing in homegrown Illinois clean energy that is not subject to the volatility in gas prices worsened by Russia’s war on Ukraine and corporate price-gouging.”

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