



CHICAGO 
RENEWABLE ENERGY
CHALLENGE

City of Chicago, Office of the Mayor

Background

As per the [Chicago Climate Charter](#), the City of Chicago is committed to the goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as supporting local partners in recognizing the fiscal and social responsibilities of climate action.

In addition, the City has committed to [100% renewable energy power for all municipal buildings by 2025](#).

We would like to extend an opportunity for [local organizations to join this commitment](#).



Renewable Energy Challenge

Vision and Goals

Vision

- ▶ A voluntary initiative that encourages local businesses and institutions to **develop or support renewable energy for 100% of their electricity use**
- ▶ A leadership group of participants from a **wide variety of leading organizations** such as Fortune 500® companies, small and medium sized businesses, healthcare facilities, nonprofit organizations, houses of worship, and colleges and universities

Goals

- ▶ Accelerate use of renewable energy in private and institutional entities
- ▶ Spur local workforce development & job creation in the clean energy sector
- ▶ Contribute to improved air quality and reduced pollution
- ▶ Support citywide carbon reduction goals while transforming the local power mix
- ▶ Expand access to renewable energy to all neighborhoods across Chicago

The Commitment

- ▶ Develop or support renewable energy generation for 100% of electricity needs in participating buildings by 2035 or sooner for Chicago-based operations*
- ▶ Once 100% of electricity use is covered by renewable energy generation, maintain it for at least 10 years**
- ▶ Track and share progress in annual reports on electricity consumption and renewable energy procurement and/or deployment
- ▶ Serve as a City-wide ambassador for renewable energy installation and procurement



**Includes both owned and leased building space. Large organizations may designate only a portion of operations to participate (as long as their electricity use is metered, submetered, or can be reasonably estimated).*

***This commitment is subject to financial considerations, such as the varying costs of RECs, and reasonable payback period for solar PV or other renewable resources.*

Member Benefits

Leadership, Recognition, and Accountability

- ▶ A platform to be a leader in renewables and carbon reduction in Chicago and beyond (the Challenge is a first-of-its-kind in the nation)
- ▶ Become recognized and branded as a “Chicago Renewable Energy Leader” once your organization reaches 100% (subject to the program guidelines).
- ▶ Accountability towards achieving sustainability goals



Member Benefits

Technical Assistance & Resources

- ▶ Assistance and expertise on deployment of renewable energy
- ▶ Resources for communicating the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy to the organization



Member Benefits

Network of Sustainability Organizations

- ▶ Affiliation with other renewable energy market leaders in Chicago
- ▶ Knowledge share and group strategy discussions to leverage greater efficiency and creativity in meeting goals
- ▶ Support from the City's renewable energy partners

Interested?

Let's talk next steps.

Please contact the City's program team below.

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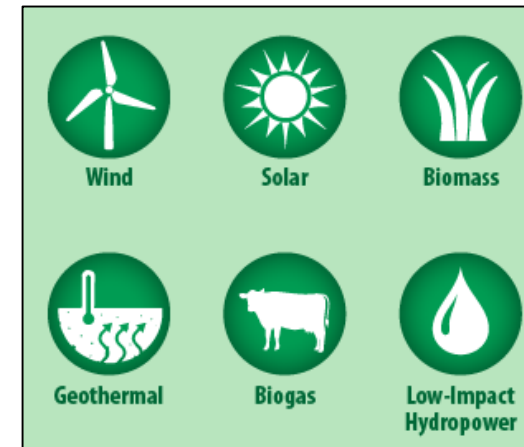
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The Details

What is considered renewable?

- ▶ The Illinois Power Agency definition of “Renewable Energy Resource”
- ▶ Includes energy and associated credits from:
 - Wind
 - Solar thermal energy
 - Photovoltaic cells and panels
 - Biodiesel
 - Anaerobic digestion
 - Organic waste biomass
 - Tree waste
 - Low-impact hydropower
 - Landfill gas



The Details

How do I purchase renewable energy?

1. On-site Installation: Install solar panels or a wind turbine on property that you own
2. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs): Another entity owns and maintains the renewable energy, then sells the energy to you through a long-term contract. Either onsite or offsite.
 - ▶ Onsite PPA: work with renewable project developer to own and manage project onsite and purchase the power generated
 - ▶ Offsite PPA Example: pay for a fixed price for renewable electricity generated offsite with no direct power line between renewable generation and your facility
3. Renewable Energy Credits (RECs): Purchase the renewable energy attributes of electricity generation from another provider
4. Community Solar: You purchase one or more panels (usually located on a property that you do not own) and receive a credit for the solar generation on your utility bill.

The Details

What are the purchasing requirements?

Type of Purchase	Percentage Requirements	Supply Options
Support Existing Renewable Energy Installations (off the shelf)	No more than 50%	Unbundled Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)
		Green Power Products (electricity plus RECs)
Develop or Support New Renewable Energy Installations * (customized and project-specific)	At least 50%	Self-Supply (organization owns and maintains the generation) - can be onsite or offsite
		Community Solar (Shared Renewables)
		Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), either on-site or off-site

- ▶ Purchases of RECs must support renewable energy installations put into service in Illinois or other Midwestern states within the past 5 years. The Midwest, according to MEEA, consists of the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.
- ▶ If a long-term supply contract is signed, it will be considered “new” for the entire life of the contract
- ▶ *If RECs from these projects are sold (as per Future Energy Jobs Act), participants would use new branding in development from IPA. May not be able to claim “100% renewable” if RECs are sold but will be able to claim “Chicago Renewable Energy Leader.”