



**Background:** The City of Chicago’s **Renewable Energy Challenge Program** is a voluntary initiative that encourages local businesses and institutions to develop and support renewable energy for 100% of their electricity use by 2035 or sooner. Large organizations can choose for a portion of their operations to join (such as a subset of their properties).

Participants will include 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. **There are seven Founding Members, and the City is actively seeking new Members.**

**Goals and Objectives:** Accelerate use of renewable energy in private and institutional entities. The Program also seeks to spur workforce development and 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; and expand access to renewable energy to all neighborhoods across Chicago.

**Commitment:** Members agree to:

- Develop or support renewable energy generation for 100% of electricity needs in participating buildings or spaces by 2035 or sooner for Chicago-based operations, including owned and/or leased spaces. Use of RECs will be limited to 50%-75% of electricity needs.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> RECs will also be required to support renewable energy projects in Illinois or a Midwestern state developed within the past five years.

## **Why Be a Member of Chicago's Renewable Energy Challenge?**

### **1. Leadership, Recognition, & Accountability**

- A platform to be a leader in renewables and carbon reduction in Chicago and beyond.
- Public recognition upon joining, as well as branding as a "Chicago Renewable Energy Leader" once your organization reaches 100% renewable energy (subject to program guidelines).
- Accountability towards achieving your sustainability goals.



### **2. Technical Assistance and Resources**

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

### **3. Network of Partners and Sustainable Organizations**

- Affiliation with other renewable energy market leaders in Chicago
- Knowledge sharing and strategy discussions to leverage greater efficiency and creativity in meeting goals.
- Support from the city's partners, such as leading nonprofit organizations and other renewable energy experts.

## **Interest in Joining?**

Any organization with one or more owned or leased building spaces within the City of Chicago is eligible to participate. Please send a letter of intent or email stating your organization's interest to Ranjani Prabhakar at: [Niranjani.Prabhakar@CityofChicago.org](mailto:Niranjani.Prabhakar@CityofChicago.org)

## **Questions? Please contact the City's Program Team:**

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