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.¹
- 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.

¹ 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

Questions? Please contact the City’s Program Team:

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