

The Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN)
Advancing Illinois Sustainability and Building the Green Jobs Workforce
DRAFT April 8, 2009

A. Request for Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN)

The ICCSN members request the following;

1. ARRA funds to fully develop the ICCSN from the existing pilot centers to sustainability centers on all 48 community college campuses.
Funding source: ARRA will bring \$105 million in State Energy Program (SEP) funds to Illinois. Fully funding the network to self-sufficiency will cost \$7.9 million.

2. Support in creating green jobs through bid-ready campus energy projects demonstrating how alternative energy and conservation can create more efficient, cost effective facilities while reducing green house gases.
Funding sources: ARRA has funding sources that can be combined with other grants and local college funds to develop the 560 million dollars in identified, shovel-ready college energy projects throughout the state.

Based on data from the pilot project, the fully operational ICCSN would annually serve over 150,000 Illinois clients through programs and training in renewable energy technologies, workshops on energy conservation, energy audits, corporate consulting services, dissemination of energy incentive information, and resource sharing to residents and small businesses. Because the Network will expand from an existing operational structure, all centers would be fully operational within 6 months of funding. Since resources from all 48 colleges will be shared, the ICCSN will rapidly produce results, giving Illinois a national model and an advantage in seeking additional funding.

B. Description of the Full Operational Structure for the ICCSN

The core of the ICCSN is resource sharing through a system of campus sustainability centers that coordinates and delivers green technology solutions, and information directly to Main Street and the community.

Area residents, businesses, schools, and homeowners can walk into the center for practical advice on renewable technology and energy conservation. Centers offer an array of workshops and short courses for both businesses and the public, and there are also workshops on how to enter into or prepare for the new energy technologies. Three types of centers would comprise the 48 college network.

48 Campus Sustainability Centers (\$5,280,000)

Each center would be a staffed, physical location, and each would maintain a web connection for sharing materials, resources, and expertise. Each center would coordinate training, programs, and services offered to the community by

the college and other partners. And each would participate in regional and state activities as they are useful.

5 Regional Sustainability Centers (\$600,000)

Each college, besides operating a Campus Sustainability Center, will coordinate services of surrounding area colleges and hold regional activities and conferences to promote renewable energy and sustainability. Each is expected to have special expertise in one area such as wind energy training or green buildings. Each is responsible for coordinating centers and activities over a region and for developing partnerships with business and industry.

8 Green Collar Centers (\$1,760,000)

Each contains a Campus Sustainability Center and is located in urban populations or a high enrollment college with significant low income housing in the district. These centers form partnerships with utilities, green building industries, and community organizations for green collar training in weatherization, energy technicians, and other appropriate local sustainability workshops and programs. Following the Green for All model, these colleges would seek additional stimulus funding to transition workers from initial green collar paychecks to the new educated workforce for the 21st Century.

The total ICCSN program would be \$7,950,000, combined with funding of \$310,000 for the Illinois Community College System to administer and audit the funds and grants.

C. Description of the Campus Energy Projects

Illinois community colleges have identified 560 million dollars in campus energy projects that are bid-ready. These projects employ a combination of energy conservation and renewable energy technology. Many projects will renovate costly, wasteful, and outdated energy systems and building structures built over 30 years ago. Each project will have powerful community impacts and will achieve multiple goals since each project will:

- target the development of green skills for the local workforce;
- decrease campus energy consumption by 30% to 50%;
- provide hands-on experience for energy technician training;
- serve as an energy technology demonstration site for business, industry, and homeowners;
- remain as a resource for future energy instruction and training; and,
- quickly create green collar jobs (over 20,000 with 8,000 directly through these projects).

D. ICCSN is Unique and Presents an Important Project for Illinois

This ICCSN project is the only proposal for ARRA funding that has unanimous and bipartisan support.

Community colleges are the trusted local resource for workforce development, continuing education, business training, and technology education.

The enormous potential of the ICCSN has been limited only by the availability of funds to replicate sustainability centers and make the Network fully functional on all 48 community college campuses.

E. Other Key Points about the ICCSN

ICCSN Exists Today And Is Ready To Expand Through the already existing ICCSN, the entire Illinois community college system can be mobilized to prepare a green collar workforce and create new green jobs through campus energy projects.

Project Creates Partnerships With Business And Industry The ICCSN model is not just a collaboration of educators, rather, it is a community college network that partners with business and industry. The ICCSN is developing relationships with major utilities in Illinois (ComEd, Ameren, etc.), and is promoting and hosting green job conferences that bring corporate representatives into direct discussions with college faculty and administrators about the skills needed in green collar workers.

Project Has Statewide Support Including Chicago Network includes colleges from downstate and Chicago City Colleges. Colleges with energy sustainability centers and energy projects will be in every congressional district. Major state agencies (DCEO and ICCB) support the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN or Network) and this proposal.

Funding Can Be Channeled Through Existing Agencies And Programs (Illinois-DCEO) All proposal elements can be funded through existing federal agencies and their authorized programs: Department of Energy, Department of Labor, and Department of Education. The Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity (DCEO), a partner with ICCSN, has indicated that funds could flow through the DCEO energy department. In addition, community colleges have strong partnerships with workforce boards, community based organizations, and municipal entities that can also collaborate for projects.

Illinois Community College System: 3rd Largest and Strong Accountability The ICCSN can provide accountability of projects and training because colleges record and audit all contacts and clients served and have standard methods for tracking energy usage. Because the Illinois system is large serving one million

residents each year, ICCSN, with all 48 urban and rural colleges, can reach over 200,000 students, corporate customers, and green job trainees per year.

Serves As Template To Rest Of Nation And Will Enhance Chicago's Bid For 2016 Olympics The ICCSN has the potential to place Illinois as the leader of the Midwest for green collar workforce and new energy technology deployment, to assist in promoting sustainability as part of Chicago's effort to seek the 2016 Olympics, and to serve as a national model for all 1,100 community colleges across America.

Consistent With The President's and Governor Quinn's Objectives The proposal is an innovative and immediate avenue for the economic stimulus package to expand green collar jobs, reaching two objectives simultaneously: create over 20,000 green collar jobs through campus energy projects and set up permanent structure to train future workers for energy conservation and renewable energy. The project also creates urban centers to accelerate weatherization and green jobs development in major population areas.

F. Additional Information Related to the ICCSN Pilot Project

DCEO Funded Pilot Project for \$490,000

In 2008, the DCEO funded a pilot project of Sustainability Centers at four colleges located throughout the state: Kankakee Community College, Heartland College, Lewis and Clark College and Wilbur Wright College. This pilot has been a true success story, serving more than 9,000 clients with workshops, programs of study, corporate consulting services, and information sharing to small businesses and residents.

The pilot colleges have produced and shared resources for a wide range of workshops and programs including solar photovoltaic technician, solar thermal technician, wind turbine technician, biodiesel process, energy auditing, geothermal systems, alternative fuel vehicles, industrial energy efficiency, home energy ratings system certification and many others. In addition, information on community options for sustainability has been sent to over 100,000 district residents. The pilot project demonstrated that networked campus sustainability centers are an effective mechanism to reach consumers, business and industry.

Rather than reinventing the same programs at each college, the centers share resources across the network (www.ilccsn.org) to rapidly address the new energy economy.

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