

# Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation



Chicago Botanic Garden

The new LEED Gold Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden features a green roof with a 57 kW photovoltaic system.

**T**he Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) invests in clean energy efforts, working with communities and residents to improve environmental quality in Illinois. In carrying out this mission over the last 10 years, ICECF steadily has ramped up its support of clean energy investments in Illinois through a widening array of program initiatives. Steady and ongoing support has spurred visible and measur-

*“Drawing on the experience of fellow CESA members has provided very valuable programmatic insights that have helped us to improve our programs.”*

**Dennis O’Brien**

able progress in helping 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and local and state governmental bodies in Illinois capture

the benefits coming from the use of energy efficiency technologies and the installation of renewable energy generation.

In the last three years, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation has awarded over \$41.5 million for more than 860 grants to support clean energy projects throughout Illinois. Over its 10-year life, the Foundation has awarded nearly 3,000 clean energy grants, totaling over \$122 million.



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## HIGHLIGHTS



City of Geneseo

**The City of Geneseo recently installed two Vensys 77 1.5 MW gearless turbines that will provide roughly 12% of the electricity consumed in Geneseo.**

Through its efficiency grant portfolio, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation is promoting high-return efficiency upgrades in existing public buildings, green design for new and rehabilitated buildings and adoption of energy efficient building codes. In support of LEED-rated green buildings, the Foundation has awarded grants to gain recognition and acceptance of the feasibility and benefits of using leading-edge energy efficiency building products and technologies not widely in use in Illinois, from large-scale geothermal HVAC to advanced day-lighting, in order to establish them as cost-effective best practices in the Illinois market place.

Illinois Clean Energy is helping to bring renewable power generation to Illinois. The Foundation's renewable energy grants cluster according to the type of renewable resource.

**A "Solarbration" at St. Philips the Apostle school caps off the successful completion of a 1 kW educational PV system installation as part of the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation's Solar Schools Program.**

**WIND PROJECTS** ICECF is focusing its grant support on helping to make possible the installation of small-, mid-, and commercial-sized turbines to generate power for local use, bringing the reality of renewable power to rural communities. The Foundation provides grants both at the feasibility stage and, after feasibility studies have been completed, for turbine installation. With the growth of wind development throughout the state, the Foundation is also funding an increasing number of small-scale educational turbine installations at schools and has provided hardware to colleges and universities to provide hands-on training in wind technology.

**SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS** Illinois Clean Energy is continuing to support the installation of solar energy systems in Illinois. These installations are intended to establish the high potential of solar for meeting future energy needs. The Foundation has taken two approaches to advance its goal:

- One, ICECF grants are supporting the installation of PV systems in conjunction with the Foundation's emphasis on seeing green buildings become the norm. Complementing the PV installations, Illinois Clean Energy also provides grant support for the installation of solar thermal systems. These systems provide hot water for affordable housing, supportive housing, schools, and municipal buildings.
- Two, Illinois Clean Energy has steadily expanded its initiative to educate today's school-aged generation to be ready to capture the potential of solar power as they grow up. This program focuses specifically on schools and has already made over 140 grants for 1 kW photovoltaic system installations. Augmenting the installations to extend the impact of this program to more schools and the public at large, ICECF sponsors the Illinois Solar Schools website ([www.IllinoisSolarSchools.org](http://www.IllinoisSolarSchools.org)) as well as teacher-training workshops. The website allows users to view real-time data of the schools that have installed PV systems, is a resource for teachers, and provides teachers and students with an opportunity to post stories about their projects.



Dawn O'Brien