

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT







GREETINGS FROM THE ILLINOIS GREEN STAFF!

## What’s Inside

A Letter From Our Board Chair	2
Thank You to Our Sustaining Sponsors	3
Our 2026 Leadership	4
Our Strategic Plan + Impact	5
Examples of Our Work	8
<b>FEATURED PROJECTS:</b> The Building Energy Hub	10
2025 Staff Highlights	11

## A Letter from our Board Chair

*Serving as Board Chair for 2026, I am filled with excitement and determination as we embark on the next chapter of our journey with a bold new five-year Strategic Plan. **Our vision remains clear:** A future where high-performance buildings are feasible, affordable, and commonplace, contributing to a sustainable and resilient environment for all.*

**I am proud of how far we have come since launching our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Illinois Green has been at the forefront of the green building movement, driving transformative change through innovative programming and collaborative initiatives.** For example, we launched initiatives like the Building Energy Hub and grew existing programs such as Illinois Green Schools Project—allowing us to reach more people and places across the state.

We couldn't have accomplished any of this without our incredible community of **dedicated volunteers, advocates, donors, and industry professionals** who have been instrumental in advancing the mission of Illinois Green Alliance.

Looking ahead to our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, we will focus on four key priorities: **high-performance building education, policy development and engagement, sustainable investment strategies, and growing our reach to more professionals in more places across the state.**

These priorities will guide our initiatives and ensure that we continue to empower our community of architects, engineers, building owners, and policymakers. Through this Strategic Plan, we are committed to influencing policy, demonstrating the financial benefits of sustainable practices, and ensuring all communities see the benefits of high-performance buildings.

In our journey towards a sustainable future, the collaboration between **all of our stakeholders** is paramount. Together, we will foster innovation, empowering our community of sustainability professionals to champion high-performance buildings and sustainable practices across Illinois. This collective effort will not only enhance our impact but also ensure that we remain responsive to the needs of our diverse stakeholders as we work towards a greener future for all.

I look forward to working alongside each of you as we advance the Illinois Green Alliance and our shared vision for a sustainable future. **Thank you for being an integral part of this journey!**



**Elena Daniel**  
2026 Board Chair  
Illinois Green Alliance

## Thank you to our Sustaining Sponsors!

These sustaining partners in our mission ensure an equitable and resilient building environment for all through their support.

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# Our 2026 Leadership

## 2026 Board of Directors

**Ian Champ** | STV Inc.  
**Elena Daniel** | Logistics Property Company  
**Juanita Garcia** | Pepper Construction  
**Erin Hatcher** | AMLI Residential  
**Deana Haynes** | U.S. Green Building Council  
**Amina Helstern** | Perkins & Will  
**Owen Hull** | Weldon Development Group  
**Chyanne Husar** | HUSARCH  
**Laura Jay** | Climate Mayors

**Justin Johnson** | Evergreen Energy Partners  
**John Law** | U.S. Green Building Council  
**Michelle McClendon** | Gilbane Building Co.  
**Melanie McNeely**  
**Camelia Miu** | Nautilus Solar Energy  
**Sean Moran** | Clayco  
**Paul Sambanis** | Sloan Valve Company  
**Prachi Sharma** | Slipstream

## 2026 Auxiliary Board

**Natalia Añasco** | Baumann Consulting  
**Corie Anderson**  
**Clayton Artz** | WJW Architects  
**Mayur Bandekar** | 3Degrees Group, Inc.  
**Nuala Brennan** | Valerio Dewalt Train  
**Catherine Chen** | Beyond Efficiency  
**Anthony Cherek** | Eco Achievers  
**Ayush Chobe** | Cyclone Energy Group  
**Liv Clafford**  
**Kariem Hashem** | HKS Architects  
**Gabi Dwyer** | Beyond at HLW  
**Brianna Galvan** | Baumann Consulting

**Ananya Jain** | Wight & Company  
**Christian Koch** | Ceres  
**Derek Krantz** | JLL  
**Joanne Lee** | Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition  
**Ciarán O’Connell** | Ramboll  
**Joseph Pavilonis** | Studio Colere PLLC / Kennedy Mann  
**Kyle Quan** | Leopardo Construction  
**Jess Szyska** | Thornton Tomasetti  
**Asli Topuzlu** | JLL  
**Nick Villareal** | TYLin  
**Maggie Wesslen** | Resource Environmental Solutions  
**Kasia Wodzisiz** | Buro Happold

## Thank you to our Leadership Circle Members

Leadership Circle Members go above and beyond in providing financial support for our education, policy, and existing buildings engagement programs.

**Jon Cheffings** | SCC&M  
**Joseph Clair** | Windfree Solar  
**Elena Daniel** | Logistics Property Company  
**Michael Dudek** | Iconic Energy  
**Annalise Dum** | JLL  
**Juanita Garcia** | Pepper Construction  
**John Gay** | JAQ Architects  
**Deana Haynes** | U.S. Green Building Council  
**Owen Hull** | Weldon Development Group  
**Chyanne Husar** | HUSARCH  
**Matt Johnson** | Cushman & Wakefield  
**Nicole Keeler** | Clear Green Consulting, LLC  
**Helen Kessler** | HJKessler Associates  
**Katherine Lam**  
**Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules** | Turner Construction Company  
**John Law** | U.S. Green Building Council

**John Mlade** | Wight & Co.  
**Sean Moran** | Clayco  
**Neil Peck** | S.N. Peck, Builder, Inc.  
**Brian Rayski** | One World Consulting  
**Charles Renner**  
**Ann F. Rosen** | Canadian Consulate General in Chicago  
**Marya Ryan** | Board of Certified Safety Professionals  
**Elena Savona** | ES Consulting  
**Adele Simmons** | Global Philanthropy Partnership  
**Benjamin Skelton** | Cyclone Energy Group  
**Mark and Margaret Stenftenagel** | Whitney Architects  
**Mike Stopka** | Buro Happold  
**Sumayyah Theron** | Avant-garde Sustainable Solutions  
**Lauren Tavel** | CBRE  
**Jason Westrope** | Development Management Associates, LLC





## Our Vision, Strategic Plan, and Impact

**In 2021, Illinois Green launched a five-year Strategic Plan with a vision to make net zero feasible, affordable, and commonplace across Illinois by 2050.**

Since then, we have made meaningful progress towards this vision by educating thousands of building professionals each year, helping advance landmark statewide policies like the Clean and Equitable Jobs Act, and demonstrating that high-performance buildings are achievable anywhere in the state through new projects like the Building Energy Hub.

Illinois Green's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, **"Scaling High Performance,"** builds on these strong foundations. Over the next five years, we will grow our impact by focusing on key areas such as advancing decarbonization standards, broadening our reach to all Illinois communities, and extending education to the full spectrum of those working in the building industry. By empowering building professionals and engaging community members, we aim to create a collective understanding of high-performance practices and technologies that drive the green building movement forward.

The following four pillars of our Strategic Plan outline the most effective pathways to accelerate high-performance buildings and build resilient communities throughout Illinois:

01

**Champion High Performance Building Practices**

02

**Support Green Building Policies**

03

**Promote Sustainable Investment Strategies**

04

**Engage All Building Professionals Across Illinois**

## 2025 IMPACT

### EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

57

PROGRAMS, TRAININGS,  
AND EVENTS

3,560

EVENT ATTENDEES

141

SPEAKERS

In 2025, we leveraged our deep connections with industry partners to launch two innovative new education series. The Sustainability Specifications Series, hosted with partners at Carbon Leadership Forum – Chicago Hub, CSI Chicago Chapter, and Chicago Sustainable Construction Leaders, focused on how building specifications can advance sustainable practices. We also partnered with Phius to develop our Road to PhiusCon education series on passive building techniques.

### POLICY AND OUTREACH

239

ILLINOIS POLICYMAKERS  
ENGAGED

299

ILLINOIS GREEN MEMBERS TOOK  
ACTION TO DRIVE POLICY

3

MAJOR NEW GREEN BUILDING  
POLICIES PASSED

Despite the challenges at the federal level, we rallied our members to help support three critically important energy and climate policies across Illinois: the Illinois Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act as well as the adoption of the Stretch Energy Code and Healthy Buildings Ordinance in Evanston.

### BUILDING ENERGY HUB

14

VIRTUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

10

NEW ORIGINAL TOOLS AND  
RESOURCES

30%

INCREASE IN HUB  
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

It was another banner year for the Building Energy Hub, our project to broaden the adoption of sustainability best practices with technical and financial solutions. We started 2025 by relaunching the Hub with a brand-new look and realigned our programming to better fit the needs of our audience. In addition to the new tools and resources that were published, we also launched The Building Energy Pod, a new podcast for industry professionals navigating the world of building retrofits, green construction, and energy efficiency.

## Examples of Our Work



### Women in Green Building Leadership Luncheon

Since 2016, Illinois Green has hosted the annual Women in Green Building Leadership Luncheon, where we convene our community to celebrate and engage with the influential women at the forefront of sustainable design and construction. **Our theme for 2025 was “Growing Your Impact,”** where we explored how green building professionals can elevate their voices and activate their networks to advance sustainability to the next level.

*“Illinois Green’s Women’s Luncheon exemplifies the true power of convening, creating space where ideas meet opportunity, challenges find solutions, and individuals discover collaborators and champions. I am grateful to Illinois Green for the opportunity to help facilitate these important conversations, whose ripple effects strengthen our community and amplify our shared impact.”— Jill Maltby-Abbot, Senior Environmental & Sustainability Standards Engineer, UL Standards & Engagement*



### Getting to Zero Illinois Tech Forum + Limelight Celebration

**We hosted our first-ever Getting to Zero Tech Forum** — a fresh new take on our signature annual event that featured a collection of fast-paced presentations by 20 leading building technology experts on how a variety of innovations are critical for moving the needle on decarbonization. We wrapped up the evening with our Limelight Celebration & Emerald Awards Ceremony, where we recognized the region’s top achievements in sustainability.

*“The 2025 Tech Forum was a huge success. Illinois Green hosted a wonderful panel of practitioners that presented innovative strategies to help new and existing buildings get to zero. The presentations were so rich, that I have referred back to them numerous times to gather more information, use it as reference, and directly contact some of the speakers. Thank you, Illinois Green!” — Patricia Lloyd, Director of Sustainability, Leopardo Construction*





## Policy Development and Implementation

Building industry professionals were at the forefront of advancing green building policy at the state and local level in 2025. To build on this momentum, we will continue to leverage their voices so that all leaders across the state understand the benefits of policies like benchmarking and stretch energy codes. **That's why we launched the Illinois Clean Building Commitment** — to identify new champions for green buildings and provide the education and support to take action.

## The Building Energy Pod

We launched The Building Energy Pod in 2025 to provide **a new platform for candid conversations about the challenges and opportunities in sustainable design and construction.** Hosted by Illinois Green Communications Manager Matt Watson, each episode features in-depth conversations with industry leaders, innovators, and changemakers who are shaping the future of high-performance buildings.



## Illinois Green Schools Project

The Illinois Green Schools Project is an annual sustainability action and recognition program for K-12 schools in Illinois. We help educators engage students and school stakeholders in hands-on projects that improve health, efficiency, and environmental impact. **After receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback** from program updates implemented in 2024, we have welcomed 21 schools into the 2025-2026 cohort, with Green Teams utilizing the updated framework to design and implement creative, impactful sustainability projects.

*"I was genuinely impressed by how thoughtful and streamlined the entire process was. As a busy teacher and club sponsor, I was nervous about taking on a project that might create extra work. However, our mentor was a perfect fit — providing the time and expertise to manage the aspects I could not. Last year, we installed two rain barrels to irrigate our vegetable gardens, and this year we are looking forward to replacing our emergency hall lighting with energy-efficient LEDs."*

— Nicole Burmingham, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Deer Path Middle School

# About the Building Energy Hub

**Powering Illinois with clear building performance solutions.**

The Building Energy Hub is Illinois' trusted resource center for building energy efficiency. We deliver practical, actionable tools that help professionals improve building performance, reduce emissions, and achieve measurable results.

Illinois Green Alliance launched the Hub in 2023 to ensure all buildings—regardless of size, sector, or location—have access to the resources needed to decarbonize existing buildings and strengthen community resilience.

The Hub combines technical expertise with a business-focused approach that empowers professionals to act. We bridge the gap between emerging energy policies and real-world applications—helping Illinois' buildings become more efficient, affordable, and resilient while supporting the success of the people who manage, design, and operate them.

## The Hub serves:

- ▶ Building Owners
- ▶ Property Managers
- ▶ Operators
- ▶ Contractors
- ▶ Architects and Engineers
- ▶ Community Partners

To learn more about the Building Energy Hub, visit our website:



[www.buildinghub.energy](http://www.buildinghub.energy)

As part of our mission to educate and engage all building professionals in Illinois with sustainable retrofit tools and best practices, we produce and disseminate:

- ▶ Funding and Financing Tools
- ▶ Professional Playbooks and Technology Primers
- ▶ Municipal Resources and Building Code Guides
- ▶ Virtual and In-Person Education Programming
- ▶ Networking Opportunities
- ▶ Case Studies and Expert Q&As
- ▶ Podcasts and Newsletters
- ▶ And more!

## Highlights from our Staff



### **Brian Imus | Executive Director**

We expanded our educational reach, hosting over 50 programs on topics ranging from green building financing to emerging clean technologies. Our programs were particularly impactful when we partnered with other organizations to deepen expertise across industry sectors. For example, we worked with the Illinois Finance Authority for a webinar on the new Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund and collaborated with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance on Illinois' new energy code policies.



### **Katie Kaluzny | Deputy Director**

I'm thrilled about the tools we've been able to create to help professionals plan and implement their decarbonization efforts. Through partnerships and shared member expertise, we published the Building Performance and Decarbonization Guide, Illinois Stretch Energy Code Guides, Funding and Financing Database, and Municipal Energy Resource. I'm excited for our team to continue building out the Building Energy Hub resources in 2026.



### **Miranda Wright | Senior Program Manager**

In 2025 the biggest win for me was the launch of a new event, the Getting to Zero Tech Forum. This was an opportunity to put innovative technology front and center and to do so in a format that kept our community engaged and wanting to learn more. We are always looking for exciting new ways to provide information to our audiences and the positive feedback we received means that we will be continuing to build on this format and topic in 2026!



### **Matt Watson | Communications Manager**

My highlight for 2025 was launching The Building Energy Pod, where I have the privilege to speak with a range of industry leaders about the challenges and opportunities of green buildings. Each episode has centered around an important topic—whether it's new tech innovations or the importance of workforce development in creating an equitable green economy. It's been incredibly rewarding to share these stories with our growing audience.



### **Sondra Morin | Development Manager**

We increased our membership this year by 12%—including Leadership Circle Members!—and collaborated with so many new and long-time volunteers, members, and supporters. It's been amazing to build these meaningful connections with industry professionals. Illinois Green's Auxiliary Board is also always at the forefront of innovation, energy, and outreach, and I look forward collaborating with the 2026 cohort!



### **Rimjihm Agrawal | Program Manager**

We strengthened the Hub's role as a trusted resource for advancing decarbonization by deepening strategic partnerships and broadening connections across the building sector. Our collaboration with similar projects across the country helped streamline efforts and accelerate the exchange of best practices and practical solutions. This allowed us to expand our audience and reach new stakeholders.



### **Twyla Neely-Streit | Education and Operations Associate**

This past year, the Illinois Green Schools Project underwent a major transition, and the positive feedback we've received has been incredibly gratifying. To give schools more structure and a stronger framework for impactful action, we created and integrated the new Sustainability Workbook into our program. I'm so excited to introduce schools to this resource in 2026 and see what creative projects they pursue!



### **Ryan Wilmington | Policy and Communications Associate**

In 2025 our members took policymakers on tours of high-performance buildings, met with elected officials, wrote op-eds, collaborated with grassroots organizations, and did so much more to tell our leaders why they need to support green building policy. I'm so excited to continue to work with our membership to expand green building policies across the state.



Our work is made possible by the support of green building stakeholders like you. Find the involvement opportunity that fits with your interests and goals.

- Become a member
- Serve on a committee
- Become an advocate
- Join the Leadership Circle
- Sponsor Illinois Green

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To learn how you can get involved with Illinois Green, visit us here:



Illinois Green Alliance  
illinoisgreenalliance.org  
info@illinoisgreenalliance.org  
312.245.8300

180 N. LaSalle St.  
Suite 2210  
Chicago, IL 60601

