

THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT



1. Equitable Workforce & Business Development



2. Energy Access & Solar for All



3. Renewable Energy



4. Energy Efficiency



5. Carbon-free Power



6. Capacity Market Reform



7. Electric Transportation



8. Support for Fossil Fuel Workers & Communities



9. Utility Accountability

The Clean Energy Jobs Act - SB1718 (Castro) / HB804 (Williams) - sets a bold vision for Illinois's 100% renewable energy future and charts an equitable course that lifts up workers and families. CEJA dramatically expands career development and wealth building programs and prepares us for the transitions that lie ahead. Its dedication to climate and energy justice cuts across all sectors of the energy economy to ensure Black and Brown communities and communities of color benefit in the clean energy future. These fact sheets each represent one core component of CEJA - we encourage you to explore the entire series.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

CEJA'S VISION FOR 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

CREATING THE CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

The climate crisis presents an unprecedented challenge and an unparalleled opportunity. The challenge is that we need to transition our current energy system - largely reliant on expensive and polluting fossil fuels - to clean, affordable renewable energy to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. By creating a funding pathway to 100% renewable energy, CEJA creates one of the most ambitious plans for renewable energy development in the country and puts tens of thousands of Illinois residents to work building our future.

FIXES RENEWABLE ENERGY FUNDING GAP, SETS NEW TARGETS

- CEJA commits Illinois to 100% renewable energy and provides the path and funding to get there. We will hit 46% renewable energy by 2030, including over 17,000 MW of new solar energy and 6,300 MW of new wind energy.
- CEJA fixes the renewable energy "cliff" by increasing the renewables budget and directing the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) to take immediate action to sustain our clean energy economy while it determines how to implement CEJA through its planning process.

CEJA creates two new programs designed to maximize the benefits of community solar:

- One competitive procurement track that allows for larger projects better able to take advantage of economies of scale, saving the state and subscribers money.
- Another procurement that incentivizes community-ownership and ensures that smaller, geographically diverse, and community-engaged projects are supported.

PROTECTS SOLAR CUSTOMERS AND ENSURES CONTINUED GROWTH

- Avoids confusion by extending Net Metering benefits to all eligible customers until a replacement value and mechanism is finalized. It also clarifies benefits so that solar + storage systems and multi-family residences can more easily participate.
- Increases the project size cap for the smallest funding category to 25 kW. This will make it easier for farms, churches, and small businesses to go solar.
- Adds requirements for utilities to improve the interconnection of renewables to the grid and invites the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to review related costs and processes.

GUARANTEES THE RIGHT TO PRODUCE, CONSUME, AND STORE ENERGY

- Ensures the right to all Illinoisans, regardless of utility, to produce, generate, consume, export, store, and interconnect a renewable energy system in a timely manner, and receive fair credit for energy produced.
- Requires the ICC to protect the rights of customers from discriminatory repercussions or treatment from a public utility, electric cooperative, or municipal utility regardless of whether customers produce energy through an owned or leased system, or by other means.

HOW IS IT PAID FOR?



Addresses renewables jobs cliff with initial budget increase

- Rate cap increased from 2.015% to 2.67% through mid-2023

Gives IPA the funding it needs to fully meet renewables goals over long-term

- Rate cap increased to 4.88% beginning mid-2023
- Savings from capacity market reform would be directed to cover the renewable energy budget before the renewable energy customer charge activates, ensuring little or no customer impact from the rate cap increase

WHY IS IT URGENT?



Funding for community solar projects expired in April 2019. Funding for larger solar projects (think schools and churches) expired in March 2020. The remaining funds - those for smaller rooftop solar projects - are likely to expire before the end of 2020. We have already passed the “solar cliff” moment of renewable energy funding. We need the additional funding and programmatic reforms in CEJA now to keep the jobs we’ve created and expand on that success.

